

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Something old
Man-traps for poachers,
horse-drawn ploughs,
engraved milk
churns... some of the
historic farm equipment
offered in a sale this
weekend.



Something new
League football begins
live on television
tomorrow with
Tottenham Hotspur
playing Nottingham
Forest. Stuart Jones
reports.
Prix
An appraisal of the
chances of the main
English-trained hope,
Time Charter, of winning
the Prix de l'Arc de
Triomphe on Sunday.
... and prize
Alan Hamilton talks to
Anita Mason, whose
novel, *The Illusionist*,
has made her the only
woman contender for the
Booker Prize.

Oil slick threat worsens

The oil spill in the Humber from the tanker *Sivand* amounts to 6,000 tons, twice as much as was at first thought. Orishologists expect "quite a major disaster" for water birds.

Stock prices

The Times regrets that, because of technical difficulties, early editions are not carrying Unit Trust Price tables, and the Stock Exchange table includes Wednesday closing prices only. The Market Report gives full details of yesterday's trading.



Student plea

Universities have been urged by the Government to take more students in 1984 and 1985, though they will not get extra resources.

Soldiers hurt

Four soldiers in the Falklands were injured during a firing range exercise with live ammunition. Their condition was not immediately known.

Cable TV deal

The BBC has signed an agreement for its television programmes to be broadcast live in Belgium by cable television companies, thought to be the first deal of its kind.

Chairman goes

Mr David Newbigging, chairman of Jardine Matheson, the Hongkong trading company, has left the group after a 65 per cent fall in first-half profits.

Letters on NHS cuts

Letters on NHS cuts, from Mr G. Peirce, and others; entry from N Ireland, from Professor T. Greenfield.

Leading articles: China and United States; Sir John Hoskyns; Military balance

Features, page 10-12.

Great guns, but can they be fired?

Bernard Levin advocates a Hongkong Dunkirk; David Watt on the World Bank squeeze; Spectrum; Channel 4's bad news. Friday page: a new slant on handwriting.

Special Report: the British Institute of Management

Pages 19-22.

Obituary, page 14

Mr Alan Moorhead, Dr Harry Evans.

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Thatcher delivers blistering attack on Soviet tyranny

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, living up to her reputation as the "Iron Lady", yesterday delivered a blistering attack on the Soviet Union, accusing Moscow of presiding over "a modern version of the early tyrannies of history".

In a speech prepared for delivery at a British Embassy dinner here at which she was presented with the Winston Churchill Foundation award, she served warning that the West was "confronted by a power of great military strength, which has consistently used force against its neighbours, which wields the threat of force as a weapon of policy, and which is bent on subverting and destroying the confidence and stability of the Western world".

Using language which was similar in tone to Sir Winston Churchill's famous "Iron Curtain" speech in Fulton, Missouri, in 1946, she declared: "This would be revolutionary power has an unparalleled arsenal of nuclear and conventional weapons at its disposal. Its governing principles are force and dictatorship. It sees the expansion of communism as inevitable, a logical step in the march of history, and the rest of the world as its rightful fiefdom".

Mrs Thatcher noted in the speech that there were some differences between Britain and the United States but "but they are as nothing compared with the things we share: Our resolve to defend our way of life, to

deter all threats and ensure in the end that triumph of freedom which America and Britain work for, long for and believe will one day come".

Emphasising the need for the West to remain strong enough to deter any aggressor, she said that the West must deal with the Soviet Union "not as it is... We must not fall into the trap of projecting our own morality onto the Soviet leaders. They do not share our aspirations, they are not constrained by our ethics, they always considered themselves exempt from the rules that bind other states".

Mrs Thatcher's dramatic declaration came at the end of a hectic day of talks with President Reagan, senior members of his Administration and leading members of Congress.

At all of these meetings, as well as during innumerable television interviews and press conferences, Mrs Thatcher reiterated Britain's determination to go ahead with the deployment of cruise missiles at the end of this year unless there was agreement at the Geneva intermediate-range nuclear force (INF) talks before then on the "zero option".

Such an accord, which she said was unlikely to be achieved

in the short time available, would cancel American plans to deploy 572 Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe in return for the dismantling of all the Soviet SS20 missiles.

However, she made it clear that Britain wanted the Geneva talks to continue after the first new missiles are deployed. Noting that it would take several years to put all 572 missiles in place, she said: "If we can agree on a lower number than the total that would otherwise be deployed, we shall be very pleased. There has to be a balanced agreement. It has to be verifiable".

She deeply regretted President Andropov's rejection of the new initiative which President Reagan put forward at the United Nations General Assembly on Monday. The Soviet leader's reaction had been "very disappointing, very discouraging", she said.

In her television interviews she also dismissed suggestions that the British and French independent strategic deterrent forces be included in the INF talks. The 162 British and French missiles here "totally irrelevant" to the talks taking place in Geneva, she said. "We had our Polaris deterrent long before there were any INF missiles stationed in Europe, or before they were even thought of. The Polaris is our last resort deterrent against the colossal might of the Soviet Union".



White House meeting: Mrs Thatcher and Mr Reagan

Russians deny 'invented allegations'

Soviet trade official expelled for spying

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain has expelled another Soviet official for spying. He is the first to be thrown out in six months and the ninth in two years.

His name was given as Vassil Vladimirovich Ionov who is not strictly speaking a diplomat but has been working at the Soviet trade mission in Highgate, North London, since April 1981.

Mr Viktor Popov, the Russian Ambassador, was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday to be told that Mr Ionov should leave within seven days. The official reason is that he has been engaged in activities "incompatible with his status" - which is the usual euphemism for espionage.

Soviet sources described him as a young man with a wife and small child who has been at the Russian kindergarten school in London. He is thought to come from Moscow.

A spokesman at the Soviet embassy in Kensington Palace Gardens, "categorically" denied the "invented allegations". All Soviet staff in Britain, including Mr Ionov were engaged exclusively in developing Anglo-Soviet relations and acted in strict conformity with inter-

national law and the "rules in this country", he said.

The incident, he added, could only have a negative effect on relations between the two countries, including Anglo-Soviet trade.

One question now is whether the Soviet Union will retaliate by expelling a British official in Moscow, despite a Foreign Office warning that such action would be entirely unjustified.

They made clear, however, that the incident automatically lowers the "ceiling" on the number of Soviet officials at the trade delegation from 46 to 45. Britain at present allows 43 diplomats and 46 non-diplomats at the Soviet embassy and 105 officials in ancillary organisations like Aeroflot or Intourist.

Dublin was said earlier this month to be a centre for Soviet espionage operations in Western Europe, and three expulsions from there were the result of a joint intelligence work by British and Irish agents.

The most likely explanation for this latest expulsion from London is that it follows the unmasking of the three Russian officials in Ireland.

Beirut airport reopens

From Our Correspondent Beirut

Beirut international airport reopened yesterday, giving Lebanese civilians their first air link with the rest of the world in more than a month.

The airport, which had been closed since August 28 when sectarian fighting began, returned to action when a Middle East Airlines Boeing 707 jet with about 110 passengers onboard landed at 4:45 pm (1445 GMT) after a flight from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

As it circled above the city, drivers stopped their cars to gaze skyward and pedestrians stopped and pointed. At the airport, waiting crowds cheered.

The decision to reopen the airport was made yesterday.

Libyan arms, page 8

Hoskyns speech condemned

By Staff Reporters

The controversial speech attacking the people who run Britain, made by Sir John Hoskyns, former head of Mrs Thatcher's Policy Unit, was roundly condemned yesterday by union leaders, Labour politicians and Cabinet ministers.

The most bitter criticism came from Sir John Nott, the former Secretary of State for Defence, who said Sir John had got it "completely and utterly wrong".

"You cannot bring about national recovery by applying a corporatist approach to the problems of the nation. I believe recovery comes from individuals, not from planners".

Sir John Hoskyns had criticised ministers and Whitehall, but Sir John Nott said the present cabinet included men of "considerable ability and intellectual calibre" who could have succeeded in other careers had they wanted.

Mr Denis Davies, one of the Labour Deputy leadership candidates, today said that Sir John's attack on the civil service was "extremely unfair".

"The able members of the civil service, the Treasury and other departments of Whitehall - mindful of their constitutional obligations and naturally concerned about their career prospects - have, with varying degrees of enthusiasm, tried to carry on policies which they know to be a nonsense".

Mr John Ward, General Secretary of the Association of First Division of Civil Servants, said that Sir John's solutions were "naïve and simplistic".

School-leavers lift jobless to 3.16m

By Peter Wilson-Smith and Edward Townsend

The jobless total jumped by 157,532 to 3,167,439 this month, the highest level for five months as more than 100,000 school-leavers joined the dole queue.

The seasonally-adjusted figures, which give a better picture of the underlying trend, also rose after the unexpected fall last month.

But the increase was about half the rate seen early in the year and Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, said that the underlying trend still seemed to be abating, although he would not be drawn on when the turning point would come.

Release of the latest figures coincided with a warning from Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry that there would be no new jobs for Britain's three million unemployed until industry regained its competitive edge.

In a policy document submitted to yesterday's National Economic Development Council meeting, Sir Terence attacked trade union demands for a shorter working week and called for lower pay settlements.

He said Britain was at a turning point and prospects were better, but we could not afford to let earnings rise out of all proportion to productivity.

gains as had happened in the past.

The number out of work rose during September, with the underlying provisional total up by 12,200 to 2,953,100 or 12.4 per cent of the workforce, but Whitehall said that the underlying monthly rise during the last six months had fallen to 15,000 from 27,000 in the previous half year.

Officials also pointed to rising vacancies, now at the highest level since April 1980 and an estimated 20,000 second-quarter jump in the number in work - the first rise since 1979 - to back up government claims that the economy is recovering.

However, union leaders attacked the rise in unemployment and Mr Eric Varley, Labour employment spokesman, said the figures were "fresh evidence of the deception perpetrated by the Tory Government at the General Election".

This week's optimistic forecast for the economy from Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who told the IMF meeting in Washington that the recovery would spread more widely and was not about to fade, will raise hopes that the rise in unemployment will continue to ease.

Bank doubts, page 23

Breakout fear remains at the Maze

By Peter Evans

Until the Northern Ireland prison authorities discover how five 25 calibre handguns were smuggled into the Maze prison, they will not be sure that another armed mass escape of IRA men will not be attempted. That is the most serious lesson learnt from investigations so far into the worst security setback in Northern Ireland's prison history.

But the biggest shock for ministers, as the full story of the escape began to emerge, was that H Block No 7 was under IRA control for an hour before

The Northern Ireland Office has denied that Mr James Prior, Secretary of State, or Mr Nicholas Scott, the minister responsible for Ulster's prisons, are preparing to resign over the breakout.

Funeral report, Geoffrey Smith, page 2

the breakout without the rest of the prison knowing.

The guard in the block's caged control room was shot twice through the head, then prisoners forced another prison officer to take his place in case of calls.

But none came. Nor were there any patrols from outside. After the first shot was fired, at 2.45pm, the prisoners were undisturbed until the arrival of the food lorry, which they took for their escape.

Right from the start, when they smuggled in the guns, the escapees had astonishing luck. Visitors are searched by hand and with metal detectors, and outside lorries are not allowed to bring goods into the prison. Such materials are first transferred on to prison vehicles.

That rules out the possibility of guns being taped underneath an outside vehicle. One theory being examined is that the guns were smuggled in bags of flour.

Five 25 pistols, so called "ladies" guns, and two replicas have been recovered so far. Ammunition of 22 calibre has also been found in the block.

Continued on back page, col 8

Transport union 'will back Hattersley as deputy'

By Our Labour Editor

Two more moderate unions have joined the last-minute rush to back Mr Roy Hattersley as deputy leader of the Labour Party and it is claimed that he has a top-level guarantee of support from the mighty Transport and General Workers.

In a branch and factory ballot, members of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers have opted overwhelmingly for the "dream ticket" of Mr Neil Kinnock as leader with Mr Hattersley as his deputy.

The 55,000-strong block vote will be cast for the centre right ticket, together with the

21,000 vote of the National Graphical Association.

But the most remarkable leak yesterday came from Mr Kinnock's campaign staff who insist that Mr Mostyn Evans, general secretary of the TGWU, has telephoned the certain winner of the leadership contest to promise that his union's 1.25 million votes will be cast for Mr Hattersley despite an executive recommendation for Mr Michael Meacher.

It is now expected that Labour's largest affiliate will bow to pressure to give the deputy leadership to Mr Hattersley on the first ballot.

Costly disappearance at yearling sale

By Simon O'Loughlin

An incident reminiscent of the start of a Dick Francis thriller unfolded at the Newmarket Sales yesterday with news of the mysterious disappearance of two anonymous bidders causing Tattersalls' auctioneers to lose nearly £250,000 in a yearling that had to be reoffered for sale.

The colt was originally knocked down for 430,000 guineas during the sales on Tuesday. But the successful bidders disappeared within minutes of the sale, and the colt was reoffered in the ring yesterday.

This time the colt made only 200,000 guineas and immediately there was controversy over



Henry Cecil: right-lipped over yearling sale

who had actually reoffered the horse, and was thus 230,000 guineas the poorer. Was it the original vendor, Cliff Stud, who Thirk, which is managed by Mr Henry Cecil's brother,

David? Or was it the auctioneers, Tattersalls?

Mr Henry Cecil said: "The yearling was not reoffered by Cliff Stud". He refused to make any further comments.

Tattersalls spokesman Mr David Stoddard said: "It was re-offered as a result of a dispute in the bidding and came up as the property of Cliff Stud".

However, Tattersalls are going to stand the loss.

When the horse was first sold on Tuesday the man to whom it was knocked down said he was disputing the final bid. Mr Stoddard added: "We said he would come back to us within 10 minutes but then he and another man with him disappeared. Neither of the two men is known to Tattersalls but we

have a good description of both of them. The reason we could not re-offer the horse immediately was that Capt Watt was still selling and we did not realise there was a dispute until 10 minutes after it had been sold."

The police have not been informed and the legal position is not clear, though it is accepted that a contract is established between the auctioneers and the original buyer.

The Riverman colt, which had originally entered the ring immediately before the Halo Gorgous colt which set the European record, was bought second time round by Mr Robert Gibbons, chairman of the Highland Spring soft drinks company.

Tebbit reforms go ahead as union talks fail

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Trade unionists will be given statutory rights to be consulted before striking and a secret vote on who should lead them. This agenda from which nothing will be enforceable in the courts, would be excluded. Their price, however, was the dropping of a trade union democracy Bill to be introduced next month by Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Employment, after the failure of talks with TUC leaders yesterday.

A fruitless one-hour exchange of views ended a 21-month boycott of talks on labour law reform with the Government. Mr Tebbit reaffirmed his intention to legislate on promises in the Conservative Party general election manifesto.

But he insisted that the forthcoming 1984 employment law Act - which does not yet have a title - would be a "much looser garment" than the straightjacket of legal intervention feared by union leaders.

The Bill, to be introduced soon after Parliament re-assembles on October 24, will enshrine in law rights for members of unions to vote on whether they should be called out on strike and to hold secret ballots for their union executive bodies.

If trade union leaders refuse to implement the new law, it will be open for individual members to take their union to court to ensure their rights are upheld. By shifting the onus to trade union members to compel their unions to obey the law, the Government calculates it will escape the charge of direct interference in union rule books and internal practices.

Yesterday's talks between the TUC and Mr Tebbit, heralded as a breakthrough in union-Government relations, proved to be nothing of the sort. In the words of Mr Len Murray, the General Secretary of the TUC, it was a "cool and civilized" meeting. But there is still a great gulf between the two sides.

Union leaders proposed that

Mr Tebbit start again and conduct negotiating with the TUC on the basis of an "open agenda" from which nothing would be excluded. Their price, however, was the dropping of the Bill now nearing the end of its drafting stage.

The Employment Secretary reacted sharply to this suggestion, pointing out that the unions had refused to discuss proposals relating to their internal democracy.

He intended to legislate and the Bill would buttress the rights of individual trade unionists.

Serious negotiations between the TUC and Mr Tebbit on the content of the next round of labour law are clearly at an end. The unions will wait for publication of the Bill before briefing Labour MPs on the conduct of the opposition in a political battle to stall its parliamentary progress.

There will be further talks between the Employment Secretary and the TUC on October 19 on trade union political spending, a topic which will figure in the forthcoming Bill but on which Mr Tebbit is still believed to have an open mind.

Making the TUC's presentation to Mr Tebbit yesterday, Mr William Keys, the print union leader, argued: "We do not think the Government can sustain the claim that the proposed legislation is concerned with promoting democracy".

Legislation based on your proposals would constitute utterly unwarranted interference in the right of unions in a democratic society to govern themselves in the manner which their members have democratically chosen."

Mr Tebbit defended his legislative intentions, arguing that there should be a "free fair and unfettered right for individual trade unionists to decide whether or not to pay the political levy".

Vauxhall faces all-out strike from Monday

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Vauxhall Motors was last night on the brink of an all-out strike after decisive votes at mass meetings of more than 90 per cent of the 14,500 manual workers to start a walk out at the end of the day shift this afternoon.

There is no weekend working at Vauxhall so the strike is due to take effect from Monday morning. But last night attempts were being made to arrange talks between the management and the unions.

The only group of workers still to record their votes are less than 1,000 at the Dunstable plant in Bedfordshire where members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers had a secret ballot, which was said by union officials to have

gone for rejection of the pay offer.

Voting among the remaining 13,500 of the workforce has given overwhelming backing for the strike in protest at the company's "final" pay offer which is worth about 7.75 per cent over 14 months.

About 4,000 workers at the Ellesmere Port plant in Cheshire, voted for a strike. They appeared unmoved by news, delivered before their meetings, that national negotiations are due to be held next Thursday to seek a way to avoid the confrontation.

Senior union conveners appeared sceptical about the prospects of quickly organizing talks to avert tonight's walkout.



Doucement...
CHANEL
FOR GENTLEMEN

Garage licensing 'would reduce overcharging and bad workmanship'

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Garages, which attract more than 10,000 complaints a year over servicing and repairs, could be brought into line by statutory licensing.

That is one suggestion made in a discussion paper published by the Office of Fair Trading yesterday. It fuels the growing criticism over the poor performance of garages. Comments on the paper are required by December 31.

Earlier this week the Association of Metropolitan Authorities called for stronger laws to deal with careless and incomplete servicing and overcharging. A Merseyside council's investigation had shown that some garages did as little as 10 per cent of work required by manufacturers at regular servicing periods, the association said.

The steady stream of complaints about garage services seemed to arise through poor communication or poor workmanship, the OFT said. Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, also highlighted what he described as the persistent lack of public confidence in the motor trade.

That was despite many efforts by it to increase customer satisfaction, including the industry's code of practice. Sir Gordon said: "At the very least there is a serious breakdown in communication between many garages and consumers. This relationship must be improved, and in view of the emergence of new competitors in this field, such as specialist exhaust replacement firms and do-it-yourself car maintenance centres, it is now more than

ever in the interests of garages not to botch the job."

Licensing of garages to ensure quality levels in servicing, which is in force in parts of the United States, Canada, Australia and Japan, could take more than one form, the OFT says. A positive system would involve a garage before opening securing a licence from a central or local authority which would have to be convinced of the garage's suitability.

Such licensing would be expensive to administer and the cost would feed back to the consumer if the costs were recouped by charging garages a licensing fee, the OFT says.

Alternatively a trading prohibition could be imposed on any garage found unfit. The cost of that system would fall on government.

Mr Sharpe (left) and Mr Greenwood after the hearing.



Mr Sharpe (left) and Mr Greenwood after the hearing.

he added: "It is quite plain that it is going beyond reasonable force to fire live shots. One of the bullets ricocheted off the ground and hit Anthony Sharpe, aged 21, of Mackworth Estate, Derby, in the leg. The bullet passed through his right thigh, severing an artery, and he needed an operation which left him with a 14 inch scar."

Judge Jovitt ruled that Sharpe was two-thirds to blame himself for the injury, because he continued to run away, and awarded him a total of £512 damages against Mr Greenwood. But he will not receive any money because it will all be taken up by his legal costs.

The judge was told that

of that system would fall on government.

Sir Gordon will examine how local authorities in Scotland use new powers under which they can enforce licensing on second-hand car dealers. It could give an early test of the possible effectiveness of licensing in raising standards of servicing.

Until the licensing issue is resolved, the OFT wants action on several fronts. Car makers and importers should increase random checks on franchised garages. The Motor Agents' Association and the Scottish Motor Trade Association should introduce a grading system in their garage guide for consumers.

The Office of Fair Trading also wants the Automobile Association and the Royal Automobile Club to introduce quality checks into their garage appointment schemes and to offer their diagnostic services to non-members.

The OFT also calls for several specific improvements at garages. Customers should be given the choice of repairs to defective components as well as replacements, with alternative quotations.

More training should be given to reception staff, who sometimes know less than a knowledgeable motorist. Display boards quoting typical charges for servicing are suggested, and cards at the reception counter on which customers could register complaints.

Car Servicing and Repairs: A discussion paper (Office of Fair Trading, 15-25, Beames Buildings, London EC4A 1PR).

Ministers to defend nuclear war measures

By Nicholas Timmins

Ministers are to meet the British Medical Association and the Royal College of Nursing to counter their fierce criticisms of government plans for civil defence in the event of a nuclear war.

The two organizations have been invited to a meeting next month with Mr Douglas Hurd and Mr John Patten, the Home Office and Department of Health ministers responsible for civil defence.

The meeting is likely to provide a crucial test of whether the BMA in particular is prepared to stand by its

conclusion that effective regional or national planning for a nuclear war is impossible.

The BMA believes the Government's plans have some merit for a conventional attack, but that in a nuclear war the rigid centralized structures envisaged would be ineffective because of massive devastation.

It is extremely doubtful, however, that the BMA will be able to persuade the Government to accept that view.

News of the proposed meeting came as the Royal College of Nursing published review of the nuclear war plans, concluding that they were "totally inadequate".

The measures offered in the Government's *Protect and Survive* give a "naïve and misleading" representation of their effectiveness in protecting the population, the college said. The scale of devastation would be such that the skills and training of any surviving nurse would be "virtually irrelevant".

Nurses would have nothing to offer survivors except words of comfort. "To talk of planning for, and training in, mass casualty techniques in such circumstances is meaningless, as any surviving nurse could do nothing to assist."

Survivors would lack a clean environment, uncontaminated food, stable social structure and the basic knowledge and skills needed for survival.

The report postulates the effect of a one-megaton attack on Bristol and concludes that of the 7,000 hospital beds and 6,564 nurses in the area, about 100 beds and 330 nurses would be left to deal with 35,000 casualties.

Judge Jovitt criticized the fact that the case had been brought before him. He said: "All the expenses will now be borne by the public purse. Nobody has profited by this litigation at all."

Mr Greenwood failed in a counter-claim for damages for the stress of the incident which he said had made his illness worse.

After the hearing, he said: "I feel quite sick about it. If I saw the same thing happen again, I would help the burglar carry away his loot."

Action call on TV 'invasion'

American television programmes brought in by satellite and cable could overwhelm and destroy European public service broadcasters in 10 or 15 years unless they resist the invasion together, a television festival in Capri was told yesterday.

Mr Aubrey Singer, managing director of BBC Television, speaking at the PRIX Italia, said that not only Britain but the whole of western Europe was about to become "an offshore profit area" for American producers. To combat that he called for the setting up within the EEC of a supra-national audio visual production authority. His proposal was enthusiastically backed by representatives of the Italian broadcasting service, RAI.

Mr Singer said "You can try to impose quotas to ensure that all television services carry a certain proportion of home-grown material, but it does not work because people can find the necessary hours with quiz shows if they want to".

Most heads said that obviously dangerous items were repaired promptly, but that low priority items had to wait for longer periods or indefinitely. Although the state of the buildings did not usually affect the teaching directly, many heads complained about the depressing effect on staff and pupils of shabby surroundings, which bright displays could only partly conceal.

The situation has been exacerbated by the high cost of repairs to post-war school buildings that frequently used untried materials or contained design faults that now need attention. Expensive oil-fired boilers have also had to be replaced.

The Department of Education and Science is so worried by the backlog of maintenance that it has undertaken its own survey of 16 local authorities, which is likely to be published soon.

The start of term was nearly

Where rich and poor collide

On the poverty line

In his second and final article, Christopher Thomas looks at the economic disparities between Mexico and the United States.

The United States-Mexico border is a separate country 2,000 miles long. Cultures, exchange rates, history and language interact and have created a unique personality, a strange stateless way of life, and a peculiar dialect called "Spanglish". It is where opposites have learnt to blend.

It is where the human consequences of Mexican-US relations are to be seen, the world's richest country rubs shoulders with the Third World. Each nation depends to a large extent on the other, and the border is a reflection of that.

A tumbledown fence marks 700 miles of the frontier from El Paso and westwards along the southern borders of New Mexico, Arizona and California. Elsewhere the Rio Grande takes over. For generations Mexicans and Americans have criss-crossed the arid terrain, sometimes creating prosperity for themselves by exploiting exchange rates and black markets.

In the United States there are border towns like Brownsville, Nogales and Calexico that have more in common with Mexico than their own country. Some of them contain terrible poverty by United States standards, but the sad occupants can see across the border towards even worse degradations.

New figures show that for the first time the number of illegal immigrants caught and turned back by American immigration authorities is rising, at more than one million a year and still growing. The reasons are economic, not political.

A good proportion of the "illegals" stay for a season, usually in one of the border states, and return home. Others wade across the Rio Grande, with entire families, their possessions strapped to their backs, hoping that some American farmer will exploit their cheap labour.

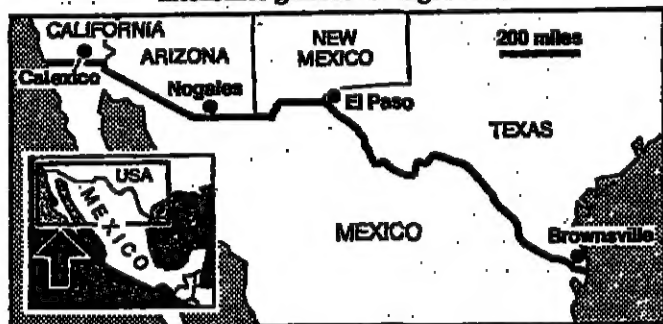
The influx has not reached crisis proportions - but, say the Americans, what if Mexico's half-century of stability crumbles under pressure from its unstable neighbours? What if Mexico's neighbours become so brutal that hordes of refugees flock north, destabilizing Mexico? What if refugees from all over Central America head for the United States?

From the US viewpoint, the stability of Mexico is best ensured by the prevention of left-wing advances in Central America. The turmoil and confrontations in the isthmus are viewed by the US in an East-West context, as an area of fundamental struggle between the two superpowers.

Mexico sees it differently. The falling domino theory is not accepted. Mexico perceives the real threat as the international economic situation and its potential for creating social unrest. A Mexican government official said: "Poverty is what threatens us, not ideology. I cannot believe that a peasant in the countryside cares about



Border warder: An American patrol officer with image-intensifier glasses for night raids



communism or capitalism. He cares about himself, about his family."

There are obvious social tensions in Mexico, a country marked by enormous distortions of wealth distribution. It has not experienced a compar-

able economic crisis since the 1910 revolution. The growth rate is virtually stagnant, a harsh experience after an oil-inspired boom of spectacular proportions. Inflation this year will be about 80 per cent, and the peso is still falling.

For these reasons, more people are heading north to America in search of a livelihood. At the same time, thousands of Guatemalans have headed north into Mexico, a desperate people fleeing the brutality of their country's right-wing leadership. The strain on Mexico's feeble resources is enormous.

The tide heading north, therefore, is gaining momentum for both political and economic reasons. As the flow increases, so will tensions in Mexican-US relations.

UNITED STATES AND MEXICO Part 2

Leading article, page 13

part as well as to many parts of China and the United States."

Mr Weinberger quoted a senior Chinese Navy official as saying the Navy's task had been made more difficult in recent years by the growing threat of the Soviet Union.

"It is a threat I know you are deeply concerned with and it is a threat which we are concerned with."

Diplomats regard plans for Mr Reagan and Mr Zhao to exchange visits as a remarkable sign of the way Sino-US ties have improved in recent months. Relations had been severely strained over US arms sales to Taiwan, but tension eased this summer after the United States announced it was lifting a ban on exports to Peking of advanced technology with potential military applications.

Very much hope and believe they will include visits and military exchanges to this

Shanghai (Reuters) - Exchange visits by Chinese and US military personnel will start next year, Mr Casper Weinberger, the US Defense Secretary, said yesterday when he visited the Chinese naval unit in Shanghai.

Mr Weinberger announced in Peking on Wednesday that President Reagan would visit Peking next April, and Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, would go to Washington in January, signalling a significant improvement in Sino-US relations after a long chill.

Speaking at a lunch yesterday at the end of a five-day visit to China, he said: "I am very happy to announce that military-to-military exchanges which we also discussed in Peking have been agreed to and they will start in 1984."

"I very much hope and believe they will include visits and military exchanges to this

who had said that in his youth milk yields had been good and fruit had been grown in the village. Now the desert was encroaching, milk yields had dropped and no fruit could be grown.

"The desert is slowly creeping round the whole village," Mr Stringer said. "It is a total collapse of the environment. He said to me: 'I can only believe that the end of the world is nigh.' I think that village chairman spoke with immense perception."

He had recently met the leader of a village in Somalia

Outdated army fights to catch up

From Christopher Wren (New York Times) Peking

On his arrival in Peking for his five-day visit to China Mr Casper Weinberger, the American Defense Secretary, was introduced to an army that was at one time considered the world's best light infantry but has been overtaken by progress.

The People's Liberation Army, with more than 4.2 million men under arms, is largely obsolete, lacking sophisticated anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles and electronic communications equipment, among other modern necessities.

The army, which was born as a guerrilla band 56 years ago, remains mired in its traditional dual role of defending the country and "serving the people". Its soldiers still routinely repair roads, plant trees, raise pigs and harvest rice.

Yet an effort has now begun to transform the army into a more modern fighting machine. The PLA is no longer in the era of millet plus rifles, a commentary in the newspaper, *People's Daily*, said last May.

On Monday Mr Weinberger told the Chinese that the United States had approved the sale to China of 43 items of high technology, including some that can be applied to air defence and early warning systems.

Washington's offer, made two years ago, to consider Chinese requests for United States weapons remains open, although some Western military observers here doubt that the Chinese will present Mr Weinberger with a specific shopping list for two reasons.

The Chinese leadership is thought to be concerned that its purchase of American arms might give the Reagan Administration a pretext to sell more weapons to the rival Nationalist Government on Taiwan. But China is also too poor to re-equip the world's largest army with foreign weapons.

Yu Qili, the army's political commissar, was quoted by the *Peking Review* in August as saying: "We have never pinned our hopes for modernizing our military equipment on imports. Even if we could afford it, it is hard to acquire really advanced weapons of important military value."

The Chinese seem interested in acquiring small quantities of foreign arms that could become prototypes for eventual weapons of Chinese manufacture.

Statements by Chinese military leaders, articles in the official press and analyses by Peking-based diplomats and military attaches indicate that the problem of modernization of the army extends beyond arms alone, to basic tactics and leadership competence.

The army's arsenal consists of copies of Soviet weapons mostly predating 1960, when the Soviet Union stopped its military and economic assistance to China. Light weapons like the Chinese version of the Kalashnikov assault rifle are highly enough regarded to make China an important arms seller to developing countries.

But heavier equipment is badly out of date. The Chinese Air Force uses copies of Soviet combat aircraft that go back to the MIG-15s of Korean War days. Its more modern Shenyang jet fighters, painstakingly updated from the MIG-19 and MIG-21, were described by one US analyst as "the world's most advanced obsolete aircraft".

The Chinese T59 tank is copied from the old Soviet T35. A new Chinese model, the T69, has a gun stabilizer for high speed firing, infrared lights and a laser range-finder, but it remains inferior to the T72 that spearheads Soviet armoured units.

The Chinese army still moves mostly on foot. Of the 300 or more divisions it is estimated to have, only 11 are armoured and three are airborne.

Only £8.30 can save a child's life

Geneva (Reuters) - The price of life for millions of children in the Third World is \$12.30 (£8.30) a year, the World Health Organization (WHO) said yesterday.

In a special report, WHO said 12 million children die each year before their first birthday, roughly 10 per cent of all those born. Another 4 per cent die before they are aged five.

"Simple, curable diarrhoea will take six million young lives," the report said. "Another five million will be claimed by measles, whooping cough, polio, tetanus, diphtheria and tuberculosis. Thousands more will die of pneumonia, malaria or schistosomiasis (bilharzia)."

These are almost all curable diseases, WHO said. "The extra cost of saving those millions of lives is around \$12.50 a head."

In a report summary entitled *The Price of Life*, WHO noted that the 25 poorest countries spend an average of only \$2.60 per person on health. The 85 better-off developing countries set aside an average of \$17 a head, but about three-quarters of that money goes to facilities, reaching a tiny minority of people.

They marched on an agricultural cooperative store and threatened to sack it unless maize, rice, beans and other basic food were distributed.

In the town of Itabira yesterday, 1,500 people, many of them women, seized food from market stalls.

Supermarkets and other food stores were also looted in Sao Paulo and there were 21 arrests. A total of 40 food stores have been plundered in the last 13 days.

An unemployed man was killed by police while looting another store on Tuesday night. In the past six months, 400 supermarkets, groceries and bakeries have been looted all over Brazil.

Damages for shot burglar

A man who fired a shot which injured a fleeing burglar was ordered to pay him £512 damages yesterday. At a High Court sitting in Nottingham, Judge Jovitt, QC, was told that Mr William Greenwood, aged 56, a former firearms dealer, was alerted by the sound of breaking glass from the home of his neighbour, a woman aged 81, in Little Eaton, Derby.

Mr Greenwood, who was ill at the time, and in his dressing gown, sent for the police and took out a .38 Webley revolver. Together with his two sons, he mounted guard over his neighbour's house. Two burglars leapt out of a window and dashed down a footpath. Mr Greenwood shouted to them: "Stop, or I'll shoot." But the men kept running.

He fired a blank cartridge, but when the men continued to make their getaway, carrying a cashbox, he fired five live cartridges into the ground.

Judge Jovitt said: "As a man experienced with firearms, Mr Greenwood must have realized the danger of what he was doing. He acted in the agony of the moment and had no time for lengthy, leisurely deliberation, but his conduct was foolhardy."

Mr Greenwood had been entitled to use reasonable force in order to arrest the men, but



Mr Sharpe (left) and Mr Greenwood after the hearing.

he added: "It is quite plain that it is going beyond reasonable force to fire live shots. One of the bullets ricocheted off the ground and hit Anthony Sharpe, aged 21, of Mackworth Estate, Derby, in the leg. The bullet passed through his right thigh, severing an artery, and he needed an operation which left him with a 14 inch scar."

Judge Jovitt ruled that Sharpe was two-thirds to blame himself for the injury, because he continued to run away, and awarded him a total of £512 damages against Mr Greenwood. But he will not receive any money because it will all be taken up by his legal costs.

The judge was told that



Mr Sharpe (left) and Mr Greenwood after the hearing.

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Home air services' losses fall

By Michael Bailey Transport Editor

Losses on Britain's domestic air services are expected to fall to less than £7m this year compared with £36m in 1982, according to an analysis by the Civil Aviation Authority.

The main contributor to improved results is a better performance by British Airways which carries most of the traffic, in spite of new competition from British Midland on the Glasgow and Edinburgh routes. In fact, the authority says, British Midland's entry has hardly affected the total loss figure.

Traffic is not expected to grow significantly this year. The improvement comes from increased yield and control over costs.

A simplified domestic fare structure with a narrower gap between normal and discount fares was proposed to the authority yesterday by the Air Transport Users' Committee, the air travellers' watchdog.

Discount fares are confusing to passengers and may be subsidized by normal fares, the committee says. It proposes a new system under which the CAA sets a standard "route fare" which airlines are free to exceed by no more than 12½ per cent and reduce by no more than 40 per cent.

The transport users' committee sees its proposal as a step towards deregulation of domestic air services in Britain.

Traffic vandal

Police are looking for a vandal who smashed the windcreens of 11 passing vehicles in 10 minutes on the A16 at Tallington, Lincolnshire, possibly by firing ball-bearings from a catapult.

Licence law explained

By Kenneth Gosling

The Home Office confirmed yesterday that you do need a TV licence if you set has an aerial and is capable of receiving programmes relayed by the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

A licence is not necessary for a set which is used only for playing video games or for showing video films.

If there is any doubt, the issue may be decided by local magistrates, as happened at Malvern, in Herefordshire, and Worcester, on Wednesday.

In that case, they were satisfied that a local man had not contravened the Wireless Telegraphy Act in that he was watching hired video films because the communal aerial was damaged.

With an estimated 1.4 million licence evaders costing about £55m in lost revenue, the authorities are keen to point out that there is no loophole here to be exploited.

Provided the television user satisfies the Licence Records Office at Bristol that a set is incapable of receiving any of the four publicly available channels, then no licence is required.

Most people, however, in spite of the video boom, are dutifully taking out licences in large numbers. The number of colour licences will soon hit the 15 million mark which means that 500,000 more people have deserted black and white in the last year.

Of the 150 schools that replied to the survey, 66 complained of the deteriorating appearance of some or all their buildings. A significant number had classrooms and other areas that had not been repainted for 15 or 20 years.

A small number of schools in the eight authorities, Northumbria, Leeds, Trafford, Gwynedd, Birmingham, Devon, Enfield and Herefordshire, were seriously dislodged, with extensive structural and other faults. Although the worst schools were those under threat of closure they were nevertheless still in use.

The start of term was nearly

Action call on TV 'invasion'

American television programmes brought in by satellite and cable could overwhelm and destroy European public service broadcasters in 10 or 15 years unless they resist the invasion together, a television festival in Capri was told yesterday.

Mr Aubrey Singer, managing director of BBC Television, speaking at the PRIX Italia, said that not only Britain but the whole of western Europe was about to become "an offshore profit area" for American producers. To combat that he called for the setting up within the EEC of a supra-national audio visual production authority. His proposal was enthusiastically backed by representatives of the Italian broadcasting service, RAI.

Mr Singer said "You can try to impose quotas to ensure that all television services carry a certain proportion of home-grown material, but it does not work because people can find the necessary hours with quiz shows if they want to".

Most heads said that obviously dangerous items were repaired promptly, but that low priority items had to wait for longer periods or indefinitely. Although the state of the buildings did not usually affect the teaching directly, many heads complained about the depressing effect on staff and pupils of shabby surroundings, which bright displays could only partly conceal.

The situation has been exacerbated by the high cost of repairs to post-war school buildings that frequently used untried materials or contained design faults that now need attention. Expensive oil-fired boilers have also had to be replaced.

The Department of Education and Science is so worried by the backlog of maintenance that it has undertaken its own survey of 16 local authorities, which is likely to be published soon.

The start of term was nearly

Hongkong briefing for Thatcher

Hongkong (Reuters and AFP) - The Hongkong Governor, Sir Edward Youde, said yesterday he would have talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher as well as the Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, when he visits London next week.

He will be accompanied by non-civil servant members of the Executive Council - Hongkong's appointed equivalent of the Cabinet.

The London discussions are expected to cover this month's Peking talks on the colony's future and tactics for the next session in Peking in late October.

Sir Percy Cradock, Britain's Ambassador to China who is heading the British negotiations returned to Peking today after five days in Hongkong. He will also go to London next week.

Bernard Levin, page 12

China and America fix dates for military visits

Shanghai (Reuters) - Exchange visits by Chinese and US military personnel will start next year, Mr Casper Weinberger, the US Defense Secretary, said yesterday when he visited the Chinese naval unit in Shanghai.

Mr Weinberger announced in Peking on Wednesday that President Reagan would visit Peking next April, and Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, would go to Washington in January, signalling a significant improvement in Sino-US relations after a long chill.

Speaking at a lunch yesterday at the end of a five-day visit to China, he said: "I am very happy to announce that military-to-military exchanges which we also discussed in Peking have been agreed to and they will start in 1984."

"I very much hope and believe they will include visits and military exchanges to this

who had said that in his youth milk yields had been good and fruit had been grown in the village. Now the desert was encroaching, milk yields had dropped and no fruit could be grown.

"The desert is slowly creeping round the whole village," Mr Stringer said. "It is a total collapse of the environment. He said to me: 'I can only believe that the end of the world is nigh.' I think that village chairman spoke with immense perception."

He had recently met the leader of a village in Somalia

Torrential rain and wind from a typhoon carved a trail of destruction across western Japan, killing at least 21 people with at least 17 still missing, police said yesterday

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Oddball

The CX's suspension is guaranteed for 2 years, even if you drive 65,000 miles.

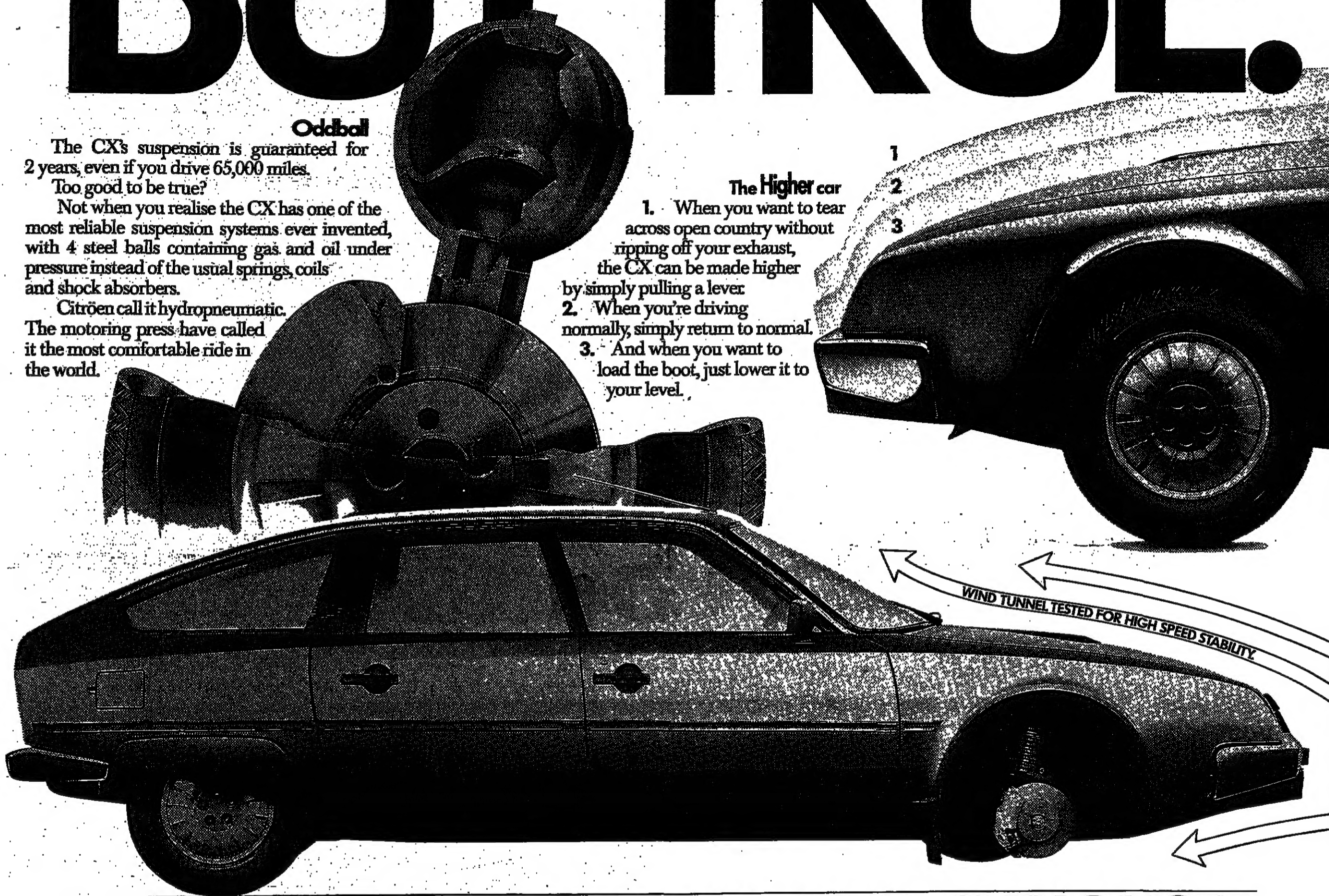
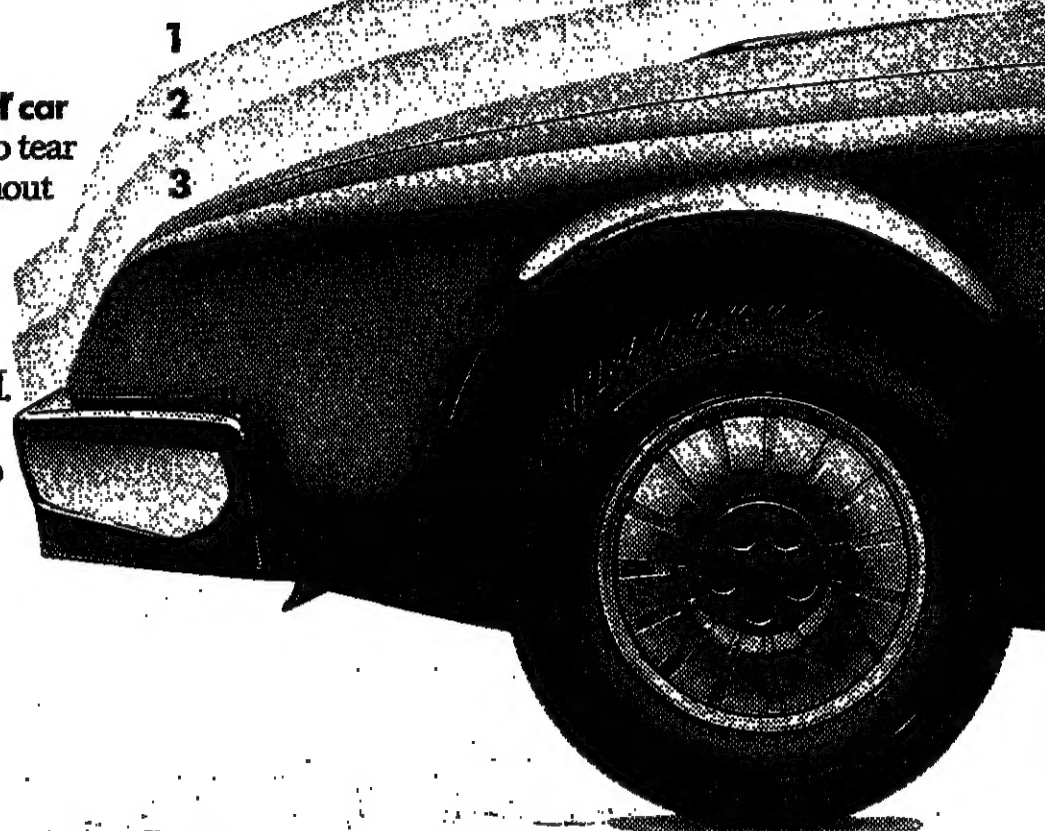
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CX Pallas IE (5-speed)	2347cc Inj.	£8,999
CX Pallas IE (Auto)	2347cc Inj.	£9,280
CX GTi (5-speed)	2347cc Inj.	£9,280
CX 20 Safari Estate	1995cc	£7,450
CX IE Safari Estate (5-speed)	2347cc Inj.	£8,950
CX IE Safari Estate (Auto)	2347cc Inj.	£9,235
CX 20 Familiale Estate	1995cc	£7,714
CX IE Familiale Estate (5-speed)	2347cc Inj.	£9,186
CX IE Familiale Estate (Auto)	2347cc Inj.	£9,470



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Philippines opposition to hit US bases if Reagan visit goes ahead

From David Watts
Manila

A white-robed priest invoked parallels with the downfall of the Roman Empire over the tomb of Benigno Aquino yesterday as the anti-Marcos opposition threatened to make American bases in the Philippines untenable.

In the muggy heat of the Manila rainy season Father Antonio Olaveria, a friend and counsellor to the late politician during his years of detention asked: "When are we going to drive away the tyrant Roman? What is it all leading up to? Will we see the end of Tyranny?"

As if in answer to the rhetorical question, Mr Salvador Laurel, a key figure in the opposition, served warning amid the candles and floral tributes that, if President Reagan goes ahead with his visit next month, the opposition will hit the United States at its most sensitive assets in the Philippines: the Air Force base at Clark Field, outside Manila, and the strategic naval base at Subic Bay.

"If Reagan comes, hell say, in effect, Marcos is the one who's going to let us keep the bases. The opposition will say you're endorsing Marcos, we'll oppose the bases and the bases will become untenable. If surrounded by a hostile population. Is that what you want? It is either the blessing of an unwanted dictator or incur the



Mr Laurel: "Reagan must make a choice."

of a hostile population that surrounds your bases," Mr Laurel said.

He spoke as members of the Aquino family and opposition supporters met beside the tomb for a Mass to mark the fortieth day since the politician's assassination.

Mr Reagan has indicated already that there is some doubt about his making the planned visit to the Philippines in November, ostensibly because of domestic commitments. Whichever way Mr Reagan decides, he will be of key importance in the stand-off between President Marcos and his opponents.

The clash between the two sides continues despite the President's declaration on television that government business was going on as usual. But

after the violent break-up of demonstrations by troops late last week the opposition is adopting the tactics of guerrilla war.

Protests by the opposition now tend to be more fragmented and less likely to attract government attention on the streets but are more numerous, according to Mr Laurel. There are plans for civil disobedience, but Mr Laurel declined to telegraph our punches in advance.

"We've got to live by our wits, that's all we've got," Mr Laurel said. "He's got all the guns, guns and gold."

Some elements of the opposition, however, now appear to be in favour of a compromise if Mr Marcos can be persuaded to accept their nominees and be most unlikely to concede any places to unsympathetic jurors.

Meanwhile, Mr Aquino's son, Benigno, has been touring the country building up support for the opposition. He claims opposition is growing nationwide and is far from confined to the middle class as sometimes appears in the capital.

"The main object of being a leader is to get people to follow Marcos, so how can he be a leader?" he asked.

● Editor in hiding: Mr Rommel Corro, the editor of the Manila Times, went into hiding last night as the authorities closed down the newspaper and accused Mr Corro of sedition.

Zimbabwe suspends forces chaplain

From Stephen Taylor
Harare

The Chaplain-General of Zimbabwe's defence force has been suspended pending investigation into what an army spokesman said were promiscuous acts of a political nature on the six Air Force officers acquitted last month of sabotage charges.

Lieutenant-Colonel Val Rajah, who conducted a thanksgiving service with the officers' families after the acquittals, was expected to appear before an official board of inquiry. An army spokesman said the defence forces were apologetic and that Lieutenant-Colonel Rajah's suspension should be viewed within that context.

The Chaplain-General provided spiritual support for the officers and their families both before and during the trial at which he was in frequent attendance. During their months in detention the officers told supporters they had found strength through faith.

Six of the seven detained airmen were acquitted in the High Court on August 31 of complicity but were then re-detained.

Witnesses at the thanksgiving service said Lieutenant-Colonel Rajah had started by passing on a message from the airmen in which they expressed gratitude that their plight had attracted international attention and hoped that other detainees might benefit.

France hosts African summit

Habré returns as a friend

From Diana Geddes
Paris

M Hissène Habré, former rebel leader and enemy of France, now President of Chad supported by the French Government, returned yesterday for the first time in more than a decade to Paris, where he spent nine years studying in the 1960s. He was met at the airport by M Charles Hernu, the Defence Minister.

President Habré is due to take part in the Franco-African summit meeting which opens in Vitteil in Lorraine on Monday and is expected to be dominated by the Chad question. More than 20 African heads of state, including some from former British colonies, are planning to attend the two-day conference.

President Mitterrand is to give a dinner for the heads of the French-speaking African countries on Sunday evening, and deliver the inaugural address in Vitteil on Monday morning.

In his speech to the General Assembly on Wednesday, he emphasized France's efforts to achieve a cease-fire in Chad, preferably through the mediation of the Organization of African Unity, with the aim of reaching a negotiated settlement "whose prime object will be to guarantee the integrity of Chad and to obtain the withdrawal of foreign forces."

Among those attending the Vitteil summit will be President Denis Sassou Nguesso of Congo who flew to Libya from Paris at the end of last week, after three days exchanges with French officials, for talks with Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, on



Changing fortunes: Mr Habré, France's former foe, speaking on his arrival, flanked by M Hernu

Chad. He is expected to report back to President Mitterrand on the outcome on Sunday evening.

France has denied reports that it sought to negotiate directly with Libya. "France has engaged in no negotiations (on the future of Chad)," M Claude Cheysson, the Foreign Minister, insisted in an interview with the Paris Match magazine last week. "It does not have the right to do so. On the other hand, it is in diplomatic contact

Britain explains its EEC policy

From Ian Murray
Brussels

The Foreign Office undertook a rare and significant public relations exercise yesterday to claim that Britain was badly understood inside the EEC.

Sir Michael Butler, the British representative with the Communities, summoned journalists covering the EEC to complain that many of them had failed to grasp what Britain's position was.

The misunderstanding was on two levels. The first was that Britain, contrary to what has been written about it, was an extremely Community-minded member of the EEC, interested in far more than boundary reform.

The second was that Britain had absolutely no intention of changing its position in the difficult negotiations for radical reform of Community financing. It had not been convinced by any of the arguments put forward by other member states so far.

Sir Michael, who as a senior diplomat "prefers to work anonymously in the background, felt it necessary to go on record personally to lecture the Brussels press corps about its misconceptions.

Britain, he emphasized, was a committed member of the EEC and believed that it could derive important economic and political advantage from membership. It has put forward a comprehensive paper on the kind of other policies it wanted to see the Community undertake.

That said, he systematically demolished the suggestion put forward by Denmark of a five-year special "convergence fund" to help Britain. It offered, he said, too little and too short a time.

Britain, he emphasized, was not prepared to accept a short-term deal. This would mean only that Community business would get bogged down every time the item appeared on the agenda, as it would have to if there were no proper reform.

He also complained that Britain had been misrepresented as wanting to make drastic cuts in the money spent on the common agricultural policy. The British aim, he said, was to make sure that agricultural spending did not grow faster than the community's own resources.

If the Community was to be allowed a larger budget, there had to be guarantees that the extra money would not be "gobbled up" on agricultural spending.

A new set of aids to help the EEC's poorer farmers was proposed yesterday by Poul Dalsager, the Commissioner in charge of agriculture. The cost would be up to £4,500,000 over the next five years and would provide help to up to 20 times more farmers than do the present schemes.

Mr Dalsager said aid would not be readily available to farmers producing commodities in surplus, such as milk.

Surprise NZ win in bridge

From a Correspondent
Stockholm

In the final round of the first stage of the Bermuda Bowl bridge championship the US second team sustained their first defeat at the hands of fast-improving New Zealand. Pakistan took advantage of the occasion to pick up ground on the leaders and to maintain the gap between themselves and Sweden, who are in third place.

Results:
Round 7: CAC 18-12, New Zealand 17-13, Pakistan 18-12, Italy 18-12, Sweden 18-12, Indonesia 18-12.

Italy lost four of their seven matches in the first stage and though they still remain in contention for the second qualifying place on the basis of their past achievements, two more poor results might put them out of the race.

Standings after Round 7: US-2 151, Pakistan 130, Sweden 105.5, New Zealand 104, Italy 97, Brazil 88, CAC 78, Indonesia 76. The US second team seem certain to qualify, in which case they will meet the US first team in the semi-final, while the second semi-final will oppose other qualifying teams from the first stage.

Whoever they may be, France should be too strong for them and France therefore are at present the team with the strongest chance of a place in the final.

Russia is toughest on writers, report says

Caracas (Reuters) - At least 500 writers and journalists throughout the world have been kidnapped, detained or subjected to criminal proceedings for their political beliefs in recent years, according to a report released this week.

The Writers in Prison Committee of PEN International, a 62-year-old organization celebrating its forty-sixth congress here, said in the report that the Soviet Union was the worst offender, with 103 writers subjected to harassment.

Argentina is close behind with 99. The committee said Latin America as a whole has the worst record of the regions, with 178 writers in trouble.

While there have been tentative moves towards democracy in some countries, such as Argentina and Brazil, many writers there are repressed and

the situation in Central America has deteriorated, the committee said.

It estimates that 78 writers have disappeared in Latin America and are presumed dead, including 61 in Argentina.

Other Latin American offenders named were Cuba, Chile and Uruguay, while in Central America recent conflicts have led to the disappearance of 10 writers in El Salvador and Guatemala.

The committee said Russia still has the largest number of writers and journalists in jail, labour camps and psychiatric hospitals. Since the last PEN report in 1979 there have been many detentions.

In spite of the lifting of martial law in Poland, the situation there remains tense and seven writers are still held without trial.

Rio's rebel Indian MP condemned

From Patrick Knight
São Paulo

Eleven ministers have called for Congress to discipline Senator Mario Juruma, Brazil's first and only Indian deputy, elected from Rio de Janeiro.

In a speech on Monday the outspoken Senator Juruma said all ministers, the armed forces and the President were corrupt. He also used the word "thieves".

Ministers have called on the President of Congress to punish Senator Juruma by expulsion for behaviour incompatible with the dignity of Parliament, a procedure which would require a majority of votes in favour. Senator Juruma has been vociferous in raising questions of Indians' rights in Congress and has also pressed for Brazil's Indian Foundation, now headed by a colonel, to be administered by Indians.

He wants action to be taken where settlers are encroaching on Indian reservations

Debt-ridden Argentina faces strike

From Andrew Thompson
Buenos Aires

Argentina's two labour confederations have fixed their planned 24-hour general strike for next Tuesday, as concern grows over a new crisis in the country's foreign debt renegotiations.

"Our patience has run out and so have our deadlines", said Senator Saul Ubaldini, the leader of one of the two confederations, which are expected to merge soon. The strike is a result of the Government's refusal to grant new wage increases. It will be held 26 days before the general election.

Meanwhile, concern is growing at the implications of a court order served on the Government which "freezes" the renegotiation of public sector company foreign debt with the foreign banks.

At stake is the renegotiation of about \$5 billion of the country's foreign debt.

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Arms race is slowing as superpowers begin to feel the pinch

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

The world's military stockpiles are about to start shrinking because countries can no longer afford to pay the price, according to the authoritative International Institute for Strategic Studies today.

It dismisses the popular impression of a widespread arms race in *The Military Balance 1983-4*, despite a 10 per cent rise in global spending on arms to \$800 billion (£530 billion).

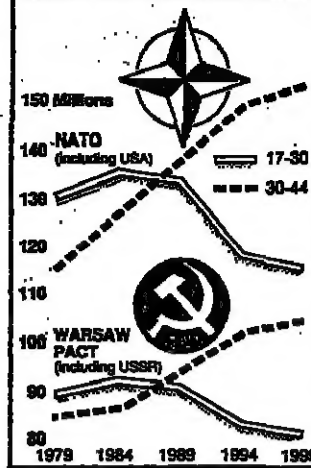
Even the superpowers are now feeling the pinch as they struggle to raise the quality, not the quantity, of their weapons, and all countries face considerable difficulties over the next 10 to 15 years, it says.

Nations look likely to be worst affected and a number of ageing fleets are bound to grow smaller unless many of their warships are soon replaced or modernised.

In the Warsaw Pact some 499 naval vessels out of a total of 1,723, or 28.9 per cent, are now more than 20 years old - and thus classified by the institute as over-age; while in Nato as many as 447 out of 1,375 hulls or 32.6 per cent fall into the same category. In the Royal Navy the number of "over-age" hulls is as high as 61 out of 156 - or 39 per cent.

Manpower is another big problem facing the developed world, with the number of those aged between 17 and 30 beginning to fall from next year until the end of the century. In

MEN FOR THE MILITARY



Nato will go down from about 134 million to around 110 million and in the Warsaw Pact from above 90 million to around 80 million.

In West Germany, one of the worst affected countries, the figures will slump from about 6.5 million to 4.2 million by 1999, while in Britain the downward trend will begin about the end of the decade and will result in a fall from around 5.8 million to 4.8 million in 1990's.

About 30 per cent of Soviet forces will then be drawn from their central Asian and Muslim peoples, while elsewhere armed forces may be forced to make more use of women in technical jobs.

Another likely result is that troops will start to look older as governments widen the search for available young men, while

Nato reserve forces will draw more heavily upon the allies in southern Europe, which should be less seriously affected.

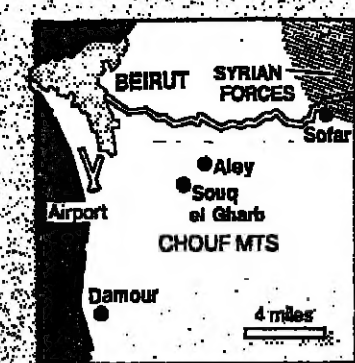
The institute also points out that this will happen at the very time when the growing complexity of modern weapons is placing an ever greater demand upon intelligence and education, which will make it difficult for forces to lower their standards in recruiting.

Mr Robert O'Neill, the institute's director, referred at a press conference to reports of two new squadrons of Russian SS20 missiles being deployed recently, raising the total of missile launchers to 378, comprising 28 squadrons facing Western Europe and 14 in the Far East. Replacement of the single-warhead SS4 and SS5 missiles by the triple-headed SS20 now seemed to be almost complete.

Defence spending in Nato and the Warsaw Pact in general seems however to have remained static during the last five years, according to the report. Only when the superpower programmes are added does it jump to a rise of between 11 and 12 per cent in the West and between 4 and 6 per cent among countries in the Pact.

"These figures do not suggest a mad race out of control but a steady advance by countries labouring under difficulties," Mr O'Neill commented.

The Military Balance 1983-4, International Institute for Strategic Studies, 23 Tavistock St, London WC2E 7NQ (£7.25)



Airport reopens: A Shia gunman watches as American helicopters take off from Beirut airport, which reopened to civilian traffic yesterday after a month's closure caused by the fighting in nearby areas.

Test for Zia regime

Civilians die as Sind erupts into violence on polling day

From Michael Hamlyn, Karachi

The Sind local elections exploded into violence yesterday. Perhaps as many as 17 civilians and one soldier died in a bitter clash at Sakrand, near Nawabshah, according to police reports. The district magistrate later reported that only seven civilians and one soldier had died in the incident. Demonstrators blocked the national highway which runs north along the banks of the Indus River, after a call by the opposition parties to abstract all wheeled traffic in the troubled province on election day.

Troops were called to clear the road and one soldier died when they were fired on. Another was seriously injured, the district magistrate said.

The mob dispersed, but later reassembled. The police opened fire, killing 17. Police said another 49 were wounded. The magistrate said 45 were taken to hospital. Opposition sources put casualty figures much higher. They say 37 were killed and 150 wounded.

The incident took place outside the voting area but was an obvious ill omen for the second stage of the Sind local elections on Sunday. The military regime announced that the disturbed part of the province would vote separately to enable the authorities to concentrate their resources.

The regime no doubt also hopes to isolate the disturbances there and has already issued "advice" to local newspapers preventing them from reporting much of what will happen. In the area which was encouraged to vote yesterday, there were a number of violent incidents, but not much more than often mars democratic contests all over the subcontinent.

The worst of these was in Karachi, a suburb of the state capital which was the scene of Sunni-Shia rioting in January

and February. What began as a stone-throwing incident by supporters of rival candidates ended with gunfire exchanged and 14 people taken to hospital. The security forces intervened only with tear gas.

Local people said the clash began to develop into a new religious riot with Sunnis and Shias once more at each other's throats. Some stabbings were reported from Sukkur and stones were thrown and tyres burnt in the street in Lyari, an area of Karachi with a history of hostility to the regime.

Apart from these incidents the polls went off reasonably

well, and it began to look like General Zia ul-Haq was winning his showdown with the politicians agitating against his six-year martial law regime.

A tour of polling stations in Karachi showed that shortly before the booths closed there was a turnout of between 25 and 35 per cent.

It might not show overwhelming participation by the populace but compares quite reasonably with what would be expected in a Western election - and this in spite of a call for a total boycott by the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy, the group of outlawed political parties which this week grew to nine.

The MRD also called for a general strike during the elections, but were smartly outmanoeuvred by the generals who instantly proclaimed election day a holiday. As a result, not much traffic moved on the

streets and many of the shops and bazaars were shuttered in Karachi and other centres.

A massive effort by the regime was necessary, however, to keep the Karachi streets quiet. Troops were evident in the streets and a convoy of lorries and jeeps stood outside a police station in the Lyari area, while the steel-helmeted soldiers fingered their machineguns.

So many police had been detached for election duties that major intersections in the city - with an admittedly reduced flow of traffic - were manned by Boy Scouts.

But President Zia can be pleased with the numbers of candidates who ran for election here. Some ran because local bodies, although the lowest rung of elected authorities, do dispose of some patronage. Others ran because the local councils are a stepping stone to election to more influential bodies like the provincial and national council.

Although the Government will no doubt claim that every vote cast in the election was a vote of confidence in General Zia's plans for a gradual return to an elected democracy, there can be no doubt in his mind that the regime is deeply unpopular.

The continuing turmoil in Sind is testimony to that, however much the general blames it on a few agitators and their foreign masters. Virtually all intellectuals, with the exception of a few right-wing Islamic scholars, most of the professions, particularly the lawyers, and many trade unionists are implacably hostile. After years of being threatened with jail, physical punishment and suspension of normal human rights, they are anxious for it to end.

Libyans fly supplies to Syria for Druze

From Robert Fisk, Damascus

Large quantities of Libyan arms and ammunition destined for the Druze militias in the Chouf mountains of Lebanon were believed to be arriving at military airfields round Damascus yesterday, as Libya's top military chief held talks in the Syrian capital with Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader, and with other Lebanese opposition politicians.

All day Soviet-built transport aircraft could be seen making their final approach to an airport outside the capital, the flyshin jets bearing Libyan colours on their tailfins as they flew low over the west of the city.

Brigadier Abu Bakr Yonis Jaber, the Commander-in-Chief of the Libyan armed forces, spent some hours during the day closeted at the Sheraton Hotel with Mr Jumblatt and the head of the Lebanese Communist Party, both of whose militias have been fighting the Lebanese Government Army in the Chouf.

Up to half the weapons used by the Druze in the mountains have come from Libya, although yesterday's discussions centred on further Libyan funding for the militias.

Brigadier Yonis also held meetings with President Assad of Syria, and with General Mustafa Tlass, the Syrian Defence Minister. "We are keeping contact with Damascus," one of the Brigadier's officers told *The Times* yesterday. "We shall continue to do this - that is all I can say."

In fact, Mr Jumblatt is reported to have told the Libyans that the past three weeks of fighting has left the Druze short of ammunition, and that his Progressive Socialist Party militia will be desperately short of arms supplies if the current ceasefire in Lebanon should break down.

Brigadier Yonis also discussed with President Assad the offer by Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, to place the 300 regular Libyan troops in the Bekaa Valley under Syrian command. The Syrian leader is understood to have politely turned down the offer.

Despite its political success in arranging a reconciliation conference in Lebanon that will include numerous Lebanese opposition leaders, Syria is showing remarkable sensitivity towards foreign criticism - even foreign journalistic coverage - of events in Lebanon. The Syrian censors have taken exception to numerous articles in European newspapers and magazines over the past two weeks, and have torn reports on Lebanon from French and British newspapers.

The *Times* coverage of Lebanon has fallen into particular bad odour here: the Syrian authorities scarcely ever allow the paper to go on sale and when they do, news reports on Lebanon have usually been cut out. By contrast, *The Daily Telegraph* appears on sale almost every day with its pages untouched.

● New York: Syria is opposing the stationing of UN observers to monitor the cease-fire in the Chouf mountains in what officials see as a deliberate attempt to buy time to review its military and political strategy in Lebanon with the intention of breaking the agreement reached on Sunday (Zoriana Pysariwsky writes).

Mr Abdel Halim Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister, is quoted as saying that Syria regards the neutrality of UN observers to be open to question and cannot foresee their deployment in the Chouf.

Amnesty for 13,000 prisoners in Sudan

Khartoum (Reuters) - President Nimeiry has freed all 13,000 inmates of Sudan's prisons in his campaign to restore strict observance of Islamic law, which will be used in future to deal with all crimes.

Those awaiting execution could avoid the death sentence if they paid compensation to the families of those they had killed, he said in a ceremony at Kober jail, Khartoum.

Islamic law stipulates amputation of the left hand for those convicted of theft and stoning to death for adulterers. Those who kill must be killed in the same manner. The punishment for minor offences is whipping.

Minister faces murder charge

Nairobi - Kenya's Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Dr Zeyaur Onyika, appeared in court in Kisumu, charged with murdering a man who died after a shooting incident in the final stages of the election campaign last weekend (Charles Harrison writes).

Five Kenyans were wounded when Dr Onyika's bodyguard opened fire during a clash between rival campaigners.

Airmen held by Kurds

The pilot and navigator of a Turkish military aircraft, which crashed in northern Iraq on September 14, are reported to have been captured by Kurdish guerrillas fighting the Iraqi Government (Hazhir Teimourian writes).

The Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iraq, led by Mr Massud Barzani, has announced that the aircraft was hit by its anti-aircraft batteries as it overflew Kurdish military positions.

Naval broadside

Stockholm - The Swedish Government was accused yesterday of censoring criticism of its defence policies by a group of naval officers in *Marin Nytt*, the Navy newspaper. Sweden is anxious to ally Nato fears about its ability to defend itself.

Wife's appeal

Mrs Maureen Smith, the British woman sentenced to death last year for her husband's murder, yesterday argued before the appeal court in Bloemfontein yesterday that the trial judge had wrongly dismissed evidence of extenuating circumstances. The death sentence is only mandatory in South Africa for murder where no extenuation is present. The appeal court reserved its judgment.

Kuril build-up
Tokyo (AP) - At least 10 Soviet Mig 23 jet fighters flew on Sunday to an airbase on the Soviet-held island of Etorofu in the Kuril chain east of Japan's Hokkaido island, the Japanese Defence Agency said.

Managua claim

Peñas Blancas (AFP) in Nicaragua claims that right-wing guerrillas suffered 15 dead and wounded during an assault on this border post on Wednesday. The Arde rebels, based in Costa Rica, say 19 Sandinista soldiers were killed, but Managua says it lost only three.

Envoy recalled

Madrid - Señor Mariano Baselga, Spain's Ambassador to Nicaragua, is to be recalled, at a time when Spanish-Nicaraguan relations are strained. The arrest in Costa Rica of the Basque separatist organization, who had been living in Nicaragua, sparked off speculation in the Spanish press that ETA might be collaborating with the Sandinista Government.

Winner robbed

Philadelphia (AP) - Burglars ransacked the home of Mr Raymond Lenox, aged 39, while he was at a party given by friends to celebrate his winning \$4.4m (£2.9m) in the Pennsylvania state lottery last week. They stole appliances, silverware and \$500 in cash.

Bank shooting

Aldorf (Reuters) - West German Police wounded five bank robbers and a hostage after an attempt to rob a bank at Aldorf, near Aachen.

Lawyer killed

Bogota (Reuters) - A second lawyer was shot dead in Medellin yesterday a few hours after the murder of colleague Señor Domingo Cello had been investigating the death of a left-wing guerrilla killed by police.

Anxieties over Bush comments eased

From Nicholas Ashford and Mohsin Ali, Washington

Vice-President George Bush's remarks that the British and French missiles might ultimately have to be discussed do not signal any change in the US position at the current Geneva arms control negotiations.

His remarks to reporters at a lunch on meeting here on Wednesday were misinterpreted and caused a flurry of speculation. This was because some reporters thought he was speaking about the US-Soviet intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) reduction talks in Geneva.

The overlooked fact that Mr Bush had made clear and reiterated US opposition to the inclusion of British and French missiles in the INF talks.

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, said yesterday "British and French missiles will not be a part of our talks with the Soviets... The Policy is clear." He emphasized that the Geneva arms control talks were being held on a bilateral basis between the US and the Soviet Union and "that's the way they stand."

Noting that Britain and France had said they might take "appropriate action" if the INF talks and the separate strategic arms reduction (Start) negotiations succeeded in achieving big reductions in the two superpowers' nuclear arsenals, the spokesman pointed out: "That's exactly what the Vice-President said."

During his meeting with reporters, Vice-President Bush said "somewhere along the line" the 162 British and French missiles would have to be

considered if the hopes for arms reductions were to be realized. He did not say how this problem should be handled, but he emphasized: "We can't negotiate for the British and French and we don't intend to dictate to them."

Mr Bush added that the US did not intend to negotiate the British and French missile forces away in the Geneva INF talks.

Both Mr Speakes and a spokeswoman for Mr Bush suggested that some reporters had erred in interpreting the Vice-President's comments. "If there was a misunderstanding on the part of reporters, I'm sorry," Mr Speakes said.

The US continues to back strongly the British and French argument that their weapons are strategic and not intermediate-range missiles. Moreover, France is not in Nato's integrated military structure.

Soviet President Yuri Andropov has been demanding that the 162 British and French missiles be counted in the Geneva INF negotiations. This has been rejected by Britain, France, the United States and the Atlantic Alliance.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher said on US television yesterday that the question of the British and French missiles was "totally irrelevant" to the INF negotiations. She emphasized that the British Polaris fleet was a last-resort deterrent.

The Prime Minister noted that Britain's nuclear deterrent represented only 2½ per cent of the Soviet Union's strategic missile forces.

Howe sets terms for missile cuts

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

The British Government has left open the possibility of negotiating reductions in its medium-range missile systems, but only after Soviet and American strategic arsenals were substantially reduced.

In an address to the UN General Assembly, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, repeated that the British systems have no place in the intermediate nuclear forces negotiations in Geneva, which are dealing with tactical weaponry, did not rule out future discussions within a strategic context.

"We have never said never," he said. Should the threat be reduced and if no significant change had occurred in Soviet defensive capabilities, "Britain would want to review her position and to consider how best she could contribute to arms control," he added.

There could be no reason, in equity or logic, why the British and French systems should be included in the INF talks which have neither British nor French participation, Sir Geoffrey said.

He suggested that the Soviet attempt to bring them into the equation might perhaps be dismissed as a smokescreen designed to hide, what he hoped, was only a temporary unwillingness to negotiate seriously. The Soviet demand would be tantamount to Britain's unilateral strategic disarmament.

In a statement to the Assembly on Wednesday, President Mitterand also suggested the time might come for all five nuclear powers to discuss limitation of their strategic systems.

● Falklands rebuff: Referring to the Falklands issue, Sir Geoffrey told the General Assembly that Britain would continue to seek a more normal relationship with Argentina and a reduction of tension in the South Atlantic. But the Argentine Government had spurned overtures and had persisted in belligerent statements.

Falklands war 'hurt US cause'

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Relations between the United States and Latin American countries were strained by the Falklands crisis more severely than was ever imagined Mr Luigi Einaudi, the director for policy planning and coordination in Latin America at the United States Department, said in Brussels yesterday.

The conflict had undermined American relationships, he said, and had hurt the predisposition of Latin American countries to cooperate and to value the inter-American system.

Latin American countries had assumed, that Britain would have shown a much higher degree of restraint.

American support for Britain had produced a varied response. "It reduced contacts in some cases and we have not had the kind of conversations which we might have been expected."

Mr Einaudi was at Nato for a regular meeting of the alliance's Latin American specialists.

Prisoners released in Poland

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

A limited amnesty over the past two months has benefited almost 3,000 political prisoners and others offenders in Poland, but there are still some 80 offenders in jail and more than 100 awaiting trial, according to Mr Sylwester Zawadzki, the Minister of Justice.

The minister, speaking in the Polish Parliament yesterday, gave the most detailed account of political imprisonment to be heard in a communist state for some time. He said that three measures since the declaration of martial law had led to the release or pardoning of several thousands.

An "abolition act", announced when martial law was imposed in the winter of 1981, benefited some 10,000 potential offenders - that is, people who could have been prosecuted for offences committed before military control was established.

From December last year clemency procedures were initiated for "humanitarian reasons" which led to the pardoning of 693 martial law offenders.

The amnesty, announced just before martial law was completely lifted last July, has resulted in the pardoning of 533 sentenced for political offences.

The amnesty for underground Solidarity activists runs until the end of October. If they surrender by then, the militia will drop proceedings against them.

Even since martial law was lifted, 116 Poles have been put under investigative arrest for political offences. Those who have been unannounced can be rearrested at any time in the next three years if they are suspected of continuing political opposition. So far there have been no rearrests.

White mediator speared to death in tribal fight

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A white South African who spent most of his life fighting for justice for rural blacks was caught in an ambush and shot and speared to death in the KwaZulu tribal homeland on Wednesday. Five tribal elders travelling with him were also reported killed.

Mr Neil Alcock, in his mid-sixties, was apparently attempting to mediate in tribal faction fighting. His van was ambushed on a road between a ferry over the Tugela river and the town of Weenen. His body was found lying outside riddled with bullets and assegai wounds.

Mr Alcock and his wife, Creina, who survives him, ran an agricultural project in the same area, living in a grass hut and earning the same wages as their black associates. He was known as a peace-maker in tribal disputes and a fierce opponent of the forced resettlement of blacks.

Much tribal faction fighting has its roots in the overcrowding and competition for scarce grazing land caused by resentment, which arises from the Government's policy of apartheid as insistence on moving blacks out of "white" areas into tribal "homelands".

Twenty-eight people have been killed this month in faction fighting in eastern Pondoland, according to Colonel Stanford Fumani, the Assistant Commissioner of Police in the Transkei homeland. The fighting was caused by farmers from one area slaughtering cattle from farmers in another.

● Miners killed: Six miners were killed in a collapsed shaft on Tuesday, just over two weeks after South Africa's worst mining accident in two decades claimed 67 lives (AP reports).

A spokesman for S. A. Mangenese Amoor Ltd, known as "Samancor", said six men died and three were rescued at the Grass Valley chrome mine.

Reagan gets his way on Beirut troops

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The House of Representatives has by an overwhelming vote authorized the White House to keep American troops in Lebanon for 18 months if the President deems it necessary.

In return, however, President Reagan has announced the future right of US presidents to make war without congressional approval. The compromise agreement invokes the War Powers Act of the Vietnam era, which compels the White House to seek the approval of Congress before committing troops to combat.

The 270-161 vote reflected widespread opposition to the 18-month time limit, which was considered by opponents as excessive. There was strong pressure to reduce it to six months.

It is the first that the Act has been invoked. It was approved 10 years ago to restrain the President's authority to enter war, as a direct result of the Vietnam conflict. President Reagan praised the decision and the "spirit of cooperation" between Republicans and Democrats.

The 18-month arrangement was negotiated by leaders of both parties and presented to Congress as a final, non-negotiable package. Despite widespread opposition, many Democrats reluctantly voted in favour in the belief that the US

had no choice but to keep troops in Lebanon.

● New York: Syria is opposing the stationing of UN observers to monitor the cease-fire in the Chouf mountains in what officials see as a deliberate attempt to buy time to review its military and political strategy in Lebanon with the intention of breaking the agreement reached on Sunday (Zoriana Pysariwsky writes).

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DRIVING IS BELIEVING

SPECTRUM

When ITN launched Channel 4 News as the flagship for news and current affairs on the channel, the intention was to explain events rather than just to report them. But that ideal foundered in a lack of funds and confidence. The programme's first editor tells why heads – including his own – began to roll

How the Channel 4 news broke

By Derrik Mercer

Why do people watch TV news? Because, two Opinion Research Centre samples told ITN last December, it is concise, personal, unbiased, easy to digest and simplified to the degree that the viewer is told enough of what is going on without having to think too much. This was not an encouraging message for Channel 4 News, an hour-long programme committed to covering news in greater depth.

A few weeks before the ORC reports, ITN had launched Channel 4 News as the flagship of the new channel's news and current affairs output. Jeremy Isaacs, Channel 4's chief executive, told a press conference that ITN had undertaken one of his channel's most difficult challenges but one that he had no doubt would succeed. As the programme's editor I shared the public optimism but when asked about resources said: "We will need to be more successful more quickly than new news programmes have generally been in order to get more resources. Otherwise we'll be in trouble come the summer."

By the end of that summer I had left Channel 4, as had two of the programme's three producers, its senior director and one of its two foreign affairs specialists. With the

majority of the remaining on-screen staff searching outside ITN for jobs, Channel 4's flagship is looking decidedly leaky.

As with the more public blood-letting at TV-am, it is the fate of the much-vaunted "mission to explain" that lifts the internal melodrama into something of public consequence.

It must have seemed so easy in the mid-1970s when Peter Jay and John Birt, now programme controller at London Weekend Television, coined the phrase that came to haunt Jay at TV-am. There was, they declared, a "bias against understanding" in existing television news coverage. Stripped of pretensions, this meant that the presentation contained too much incident and too little explanation.

Channel 4 News was established to remedy this inadequacy, as indeed was the BBC's *Newsnight* two years earlier. Unlike *Newsnight*, though, the programme proposed by Channel 4 would have a prime early-evening slot which would require a more substantial news summary than would be necessary in a slot following the BBC and ITN news. There were other differences, too: Channel 4 News had specific contractual commitments to cover economic news, science and

the arts. And there would be regular items from overseas broadcasters.

The most profound difference between the two programmes, however, centred upon the question raised at the opening press conference – resources. Channel 4 News had greater obligations yet began life with barely a third of the *Newsnight* staff. This stark fact was pointed out to David Nicholas, ITN's editor and chief executive, the day before ITN submitted its bid for the contract to Isaacs. ITN's failure to obtain a realistic budget, Nicholas later conceded, sowed the seeds for the subsequent problems.

But ITN, smarting from the shock of losing ITV's breakfast franchise to Jay's consortium, was desperate for the Channel 4 contract. It was the only foreseeable route for expansion. Thus costs were kept ludicrously low in the budget drawn up by Paul McKee, now ITN's deputy chief executive, built around the hope that everyone would work a five-day week, a practice the union had resisted successfully elsewhere for 25 years.

ITN would pitch for the contract and then proceed in the fashion it knew best: it would fly by the seat of its

pants, just as it had so often against the better-staffed BBC. The approach betrayed a lack of awareness of any difference between reacting to the day's events – at which ITN is justly renowned – and the more analytical and anticipatory requirements of Channel 4's brainchild. But if the two organizations were scarcely on the same journalistic wavelength, ITN's financial offer trumped the rival bid from LWT's *Weekend World* team.

Channel 4's parsimony reflected more than a compromise between the radical programme makers and the ITV moneybags who largely comprised its sometimes uneasy board. The low budget was also a price exacted by the former, who had fought ITN's involvement on principle. How could ITN, they argued, produce a programme to remedy its own inadequacies? Was it not too rooted in what Alastair Burnet once called the "if it moves, film it" school of journalism?

Such philosophical doubts were not invalid although they maligned able individuals such as Trevor McDonald who, like Burnet, were only too aware of the constraints imposed by one minute 15 second reports on *News at Ten*. My "quality" newspaper background – latterly as managing editor

(news) at *The Sunday Times* – thus represented a symbolic break from ITN's traditional news values.

Outsiders focussed upon the programme's timing – seven to eight o'clock in the evening, when even Robin Day had once (with *Newsday*) failed to entice many viewers to BBC2 news – rather doubting its ability to fulfill a journalistic need. But our problem came in trying to rise to the challenge of becoming a "quality newspaper of the air" with staffing levels which would have embarrassed a regional magazine.

ITN had misunderstood not only the nature of the journalism involved but also the technical problems of producing, say, eight-minute reports compared to one or two-minute "packages". The four reporters had no researchers to add depth, no film producers to add gloss.

It is true, of course, that we were to have access to virtually everything ITN produced for its other programmes, but we couldn't become too dependent upon such material without sacrificing our own individuality. And why should people watch us if it was not to see stories they could not see elsewhere?

I decided to ignore the budget. If we succeeded, we would get the extra money. If we failed, I'd have other problems. No journalist has yet won an award for good accounting, David Nicholas said approvingly.

And so, once the chimera of a five-day week had been overcome, I managed to increase the 21 journalists allowed for in the original budget (excluding assistants and secretaries) to about 30 – still fewer than even a weekly programme such as *Panorama* but just enough to get under way.

Why, then, didn't we set the world alight? For a while it appeared as though we might. David Nicholas reported to the ITN board in November that "Channel 4 News has assumed a more self-assured character than any other newly-established ITN programme had acquired at a comparable stage". Isaacs sent a similarly laudatory message.

We knew too well that there were problems: some of the on-screen staff were visibly lacking in confidence, the deskless set wasn't working, studio production standards were too prone to error and our ability to analyze the main stories lacked consistency. But any hope of piecemeal reform was shattered by ratings which represented a more serious blow to corporate self-confidence than Jeremy Isaacs' envious *sang-froid* ever betrayed.

What, though, constitutes success

for a serious news programme up against programmes such as *Coronation Street* and *This Is Your Life*? Our ratings were never as bad as reported, only once in the first six months averaging over a week the infamous "zero rating" of fewer than 250,000 viewers. There were also regional and statistical oddities that suggested the audience was being underestimated. Nevertheless 311,000 for December and 457,000 in February was clearly not good enough; we needed at least the 650,000 which we hit fitfully and unpredictably.

A crucial debate began: Paul McKee argued we should change the concept of the programme to entice viewers away from rival programmes; I maintained we should improve the existing concept and cultivate a new audience that did not watch television in the time slot. It was an argument which I won in January but lost in June.

Revamp number one brought in desks, new music and an opening news summary. There were also regular slots for science, arts and foreign news. The panic over ratings also meant that my earlier plea for ITN reporters to serve attachments with Channel 4 News was now backed by Don Horrobin, ITN's deputy editor. Audiences rose to around half a million and the new look was well received by critics. But as the evenings lengthened, audiences dwindled and the arguments began over revamp number two.

This time McKee was supported by Peter Sissons, the programme's main presenter, who had swung from being its greatest champion to its fiercest critic. He had lost confidence in two of the three producers, and when I rejected his request to work only with the other producer he lost confidence in me. Now, he declared, the only way to save the programme was to make it newsworthy and go downmarket. He also thought I should be replaced by a television "professional".

Hour-long news was very much Jeremy Isaacs' baby and he had been frustrated by our apparent inability to match the standards he had once set at *This Week*. He had been unhappy over ITN's refusal to maintain a full-time studio director after February's "cosmetic" revamp and critical of the producers for failing to provide "textural variety" between items. Maybe, he asked Nicholas, Sissons was right and it was the editor's fault?

Meanwhile, I was unhappy about new budget proposals to reduce the camera crews available to us. This jeopardized not only the coverage, which had won critical praise, but the originality, which alone offered me sufficient satisfaction to offset the superficiality of most TV news reporting. Trapped in such a cross-fire, it seemed time for a parting of the ways – and I declined Nicholas's offer to switch to another post within ITN.

Hindsight makes wise men of us all, but my balance sheet still has more pluses than minuses. We widened the news to embrace many areas otherwise ignored and introduced some conspicuous new talent. The editorial team mostly prospered, but I regret ITN's refusal to let me approach Anna Ford after the TV-am debacle. On the debit side, I overestimated the time required by Sarah Hogg to adapt her skills to television. The acute pressure on people meant that good ideas were sometimes done skimpily.

The "mission to explain", abandoned in favour of a rat by TV-am, survives – just – at ITN. More money is belatedly being spent and the channel's greater popularity should rub off on the news. But will this, and the traditional autumn increase in viewers, be sufficient to stave off revamp number three? A shorter length, new time or a lurch downmarket could boost ratings but then we would never know whether a "quality newspaper of the air" can be either feasible or popular. Having been denied adequate resources and promotion, is Channel 4 News also to be denied the time that, a year ago, we all knew would be necessary?



Mercer outside Channel 4's Charlotte Street headquarters: how long can the "mission to explain" survive?

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moreover... Miles Kington

Chuckoffski? Ha!

A male ballet dancer was sacked from the Festival Ballet, according to a recent industrial tribunal case, because "he lacked the necessary masculinity and, moreover, lacked the strength and vigour to lift ballerinas and the like".

It is the last three words which will puzzle those not familiar with ballet. We know that male dancers have to lift ballerinas and occasionally throw them back and forth like beach balls, but what is "the like" that they also have to lift? Luckily, I have recently been reading the memoirs of Dmitri Svergladovsky, the legendary Russian dancer who came to the West in 1918 and later represented the US in the 1924 Olympics as a weightlifter. This extract may help to explain some of the mysteries of male dancing.

"My father owned a large estate in Russia, so large that when the sun rose at one end, it was still pitch-black at the other. He spent all his time in Moscow playing cards with Chekhov, so from an early age I found myself in charge of the estate, though all I ever wanted to do was dance. I used to spend my days deep in the forest, helping the serfs lift tree trunks and practising my dancing. This, I think, was what gave me my unusual strength as a ballet dancer; you do not meet many who can lift a tree, or indeed lift a serf who has been laughing at your dancing and dash him against a tree.

"At my first audition in St Petersburg, the governors of the ballet felt that my physique was too manly to be a good dancer. Technique was needed for lifting, not strength, they told me. Bring me four ballerinas, I told them proudly. They did so, and I lifted all four of them with great ease. They still expressed doubt, but when I laughingly lifted the governors above my head and looked for a nearby tree to hurl them against, they told me I had passed the audition.

"Although my great strength made me popular with the others, they also liked to play practical jokes on me. There was one scene in a ballet where I had to receive the ballerina from behind, over my head, and I well remember that one evening she seemed much heavier than usual. The reason was that those rascals had placed in position behind me an entire army cannon. How surprised they were to see me hold it above my head, although with an effort! Not so surprised, however, as the other male dancer to whom I was supposed to throw the ballerina. I shall never forget the look on his face as the cannon descended on him. Poor Yuri. He was not equipped to lift cannons and the like.

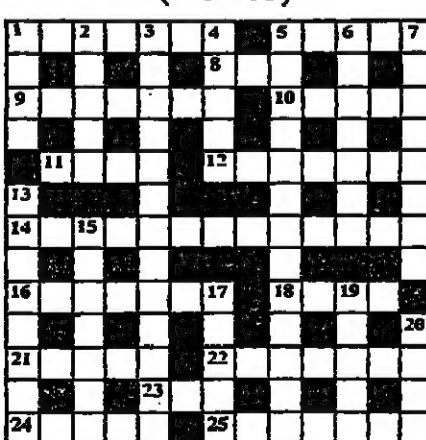
"As you can imagine, my great virility and masculinity made me something of a favourite with the girls, who would often feel my muscles and the like when I was not looking. However, I was too

devoted to my art to bother with female company much. Truth to tell, I preferred male company on the whole, and often befriended a man dancer who was lacking in the virility necessary to lift packing-crates, horses and the like, feeling sorry for him.

"Then came my move to Paris, where I met with Diaghilev. He was planning a new ballet based on the machine age and was very excited at the idea of having a T-model Ford on stage. What he could not work out was how to use it, as none of his dancers could drive very well. I pleaded with him to let me dance a duet with it. He objected that the dangers of my being run over were too strong. I said that he had misunderstood me, and that I wished to carry it round the stage. But the story of how I did so, and how I was spotted by the American promoter Don Cantorini, will have to wait till another chapter."

I trust this has helped to adjust the common image of the male dancer as something of a sissy.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 163)



ACROSS
1 Cooked roll (7)
5 Depth determiner (5)
8 Hidden advantage (3)
9 Cartaker (7)
10 Keepsake (5)
11 BBC nickname (4)
12 Taking notice (7)
14 Membrane fluid (13)
16 Japanese warriors (7)
18 Official postmark (1,1,1,1)
21 Amass (3,2)
22 Formal letter (7)
23 Postages (3)
24 Each one (5)
25 Guardian (7)
DOWN
1 Indian ruler (4)
2 Forearm bones (5)
3 Self-written life story (13)
4 Soil (5)
5 Excellence seeker (13)
6 Morally raises (7)
7 Sudicn recoil (8)
13 Informal talk (8)
15 Proposed person (7)
17 That is (2,3)
19 Roadside hotel (5)
20 Mad Shakespearean king (4)
SOLUTION TO No 162
ACROSS: 1 Pathos 5 Scribe 8 Pup 9 Advice 10 Oncoast 11 Brio 12 Threnody 14 Foolhardiness 17 Chain saw 19 Nook 21 Noddle 23 Grisle 24 DOE 25 Ashore 26 Royals
DOWN: 2 Alder 3 Hot polloi 4 Spectra 5 Spoor 6 RUC 7 Besides 13 Nomenclature 15 Ochrous 16 Dower 18 Suede 20 Ousel 22 Duo

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FRIDAY PAGE

The woman of letters

Bad writing can result in failed exams and emotional problems in later life. Helen Mason meets a woman bringing hope to those in difficulty

The handwriting of children in schools today is blighted by a supposedly enlightened decision which educationists made in the 1950s. They decided that to teach handwriting was repressive, and as a result, the expertise of how to teach, and how to teach teachers, is almost gone.

That is the opinion of Rosemary Sassoon, who has spent three years researching in schools and is appalled by the difficulties thousands of children are experiencing.

Rosemary Sassoon is a calligrapher, lecturer and tutor. When she was asked by an education authority to create a course of remedial writing, she went for advice to university colleagues and was taken aback to discover the person they regarded as expert was herself.

Not a woman to shirk responsibility, she devoted herself to the problem and now she has written a book on the subject. It is a manual for teachers and parents and a work of fascination for children themselves.

When she began, in 1980, as in-service tutor to teachers, running courses on teaching and remedial handwriting, Rosemary Sassoon was diffident, on granny's egg grounds, about instructing instructors, but she found teachers flocking to learn. No one else had given them a method.

Often Rosemary Sassoon can correct handwriting merely by seeing a writing sample. Sometimes she has to watch a child in action. One headmistress begged for help for a bright girl who had failed A Levels, because she had been unable to complete her papers in time. A sample of her writing was faultless but when Rosemary Sassoon saw the girl write, she realised that the wrong grip was creating muscle tensions which made long writing sessions agony. That problem was cured by a triangular plastic pencil grip which changed her habit of crossing thumb and forefinger on her pen.

Some solutions are even simpler. Posture and light, children sitting at tables the wrong height and left-handers working in shadow, paper position, paper surface and most of all grip, all contribute to bad results.

Rosemary Sassoon would like to see schools adopt a flowing first alphabet, which leads naturally into

curative writing. I can think of one stout nun, proud of the neat printing she has established throughout an entire primary school, who will be affronted by that. She and many other well-meaning teachers who believe that letters with joining strokes are beyond the capabilities of five-year-old children will be surprised by the excellent samples of juvenile joined-up writing (as shown below) reproduced in the book.

The Piped Piper

"I think it helped that I'm not a teacher," Rosemary Sassoon said, "and it helped that I have children of my own."

She has three daughters, the youngest 18, and is married to an educationist who, anonymously, wrote the epilogue to her book.

Although a letterer by training and inclination, she is quite surprised, in her early 50s, to find herself writing books. Those who know her, even those who meet her briefly, are surprised it has taken her so long. She is, in her own understatement, a compulsive communicator. It is difficult to imagine any teacher resisting the lucidity and joy of writing, the logic and flexibility of the manual she has produced.

Rosemary Sassoon herself is more realistic. "I don't expect everyone to agree with the book, but I hope it will make people think," she said. "I hope there is nothing in it which will harm any child. I hope it won't arouse anyone's rage. The only people who will be against it are those with a vested financial interest in one style. A lot of money goes into writing a copy book, a manual with one style. I give everyone who has done that credit for research - a tremendous amount of research goes into work like that - but having produced it, they are not likely to want to revise it."

She could have designed such a book herself and once might have done so before she went into schools and saw the problems. "I've changed my feelings. I used to think beautiful lettering was the most important thing. Beauty in writing will emerge as a result of doing things properly."

"What I think," she said, "is that until a few years ago almost every



Rosemary Sassoon: "Beauty in writing will emerge as a result of doing things properly"

junior school had at least one good old-fashioned teacher who may have been a bit repressive, but who actually knew the method and kept an eye. If a child got into difficulties they knew what to do about it.

A school which adopts the Sassoon method, and already one school has, will not turn out squads of children with identical handwriting. One of her priorities, after legibility and speed, is promotion of a personal hand, a matter of some controversy in schools where individual style is seen as rebellion. Her book has many samples of children's writing, many by her own children because, she said disarmingly, then she can be absolutely sure what she concludes is true. Two examples (one shown below), are by a nine-year-old girl so inhibited by having her natural narrow, slanting hand forced into an alien style, that she had to change schools.

They're hiding not a penny

Some children are miserably aware that their handwriting betrays their sense of failure not only to teachers, but future employers. Remedial exercises to relax grip and create flowing movement, explanations about the importance of

forming letters correctly, repetitive patterns to reprogramme the mind and hand, can create improvements which seem like magic to a child labelled a no-hoper.

"Putting people in a remedial stream is a very depressing thing and it shows more and more in the handwriting," Rosemary Sassoon said. "When I realized that these stroke related exercises (below) are just as relevant for ten-year-olds and 15-year-olds, that was very important."



Adults may joke about their handwriting. Rosemary Sassoon jokes about her own, but unhappy children do not joke, particularly when parents and exasperated teachers put pressure on them. Factors to be considered before blaming a child might be physical such as bad eyesight, psychological, neurological or environmental. It is even possible to detect behavioural problems from a child's handwriting such as bullying, antagonism to a teacher and problems at home.

The Practical Guide to Children's Handwriting (Thames & Hudson, £4.95).

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Knowing all the safe alternatives

Renewed interest in "alternative" therapies has left many people confused about whether such treatment is available on the NHS. The picture is further confused by the launch of the exclusive British Holistic Medical Association, with the majority of the founding members being NHS GPs non-medically qualified practitioners are ineligible for membership.

If your own GP practises any medical art which is not 100 per cent orthodox (say, hypnotherapy or acupuncture) you are entitled to that therapy free of charge. Any doctor who charges his own patients will be in breach of his Terms of Service, though he is entitled to charge patients who are on another GP's list.

Treatment by non-medically qualified therapists is usually private, and you will pay accordingly, though you may be lucky enough to come across one of the handful of therapists working on a research project, say in a pain clinic or teaching relaxation techniques, in a NHS hospital.

A GP who refers you to a non-medically qualified practitioner and then absolves himself of any responsibility for your care can, in theory, be charged with professional misconduct by the General Medical Council. The British Holistic Medical Association manages to avoid that local difficulty by advising members that it is in order to refer a patient to a non-medically qualified therapist, provided the doctor knows and trusts the practitioner, implicitly suggesting that the responsibility will continue to be shared.

Laser tests

People who operate lasers - whether they are medically or non-medically qualified - should take a "driving" test and have to hold a valid licence.

Francis Allwright, general secretary of the Society of Health and Beauty Practitioners, believes this is the only genuine assurance patients could have if they want to check that the person who is about to remove a skin blemish or tattoo really appreciates the hazards of using lasers. Using a laser without proper training is just as dangerous, she says, as a 15-year-old borrowing a Porsche for a joyride.

The number of patients who have received ghastly burns because lasers were used improperly during the last

year has prompted the Department of Health to produce a consultation paper outlining proposals for controls on lasers used for medical purposes. Miss Allwright says the guidance does not go far enough and will do little to protect the unsuspecting patient. Although the department says that any premises where lasers are installed, whether run by doctors or beauty therapists, must be inspected at least twice a year, she argues that unless the inspectors are trained in the use of lasers themselves, the controls will be worthless.

Her own society grants diplomas for users of lasers after intensive training. The syllabus, which concentrates on safety, was drawn up in conjunction with the Health and Safety Executive and the British Standards Institute.

Pressure points

Having your blood pressure measured is unpleasant - the inflated cuff round the arm can leave an uncomfortable tingling sensation afterwards, coupled with the worry that your own blood pressure may not be all right. Accurate blood pressure measurements are notoriously difficult to achieve and a study in Milan published in the *Lancet* describes just how dramatic fluctuations in blood pressure can be triggered.

Patients expecting their blood pressures were about to be taken were so nervous that as soon as a doctor appeared at their bedside - some minutes before the measuring paraphernalia was put on - the blood pressure shot up. The pressure reached a peak four minutes later, about the time a reading would normally be taken, falsely indicating that the blood pressure was pathologically raised.

Cynics might be tempted to suggest that the study says more about anxiety about doctors than about blood pressure measurement, but research in many other parts of the world has shown that self-monitoring and continuous monitoring of blood pressure gives lower values than the cuff method. Yet the Italian study is interesting because it is the appearance of the doctor that triggered the alarm reaction and not the restriction of the cuff.

Millers' fear

Doctors who have reacted bitterly to government plans to drop regulations which force flour millers to fortify their product with vitamins and minerals have found some, perhaps unexpected, allies - the millers themselves. Earlier this year the Department of

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food proposed that calcium, vitamin B1, nicotinic acid, thiamine and iron should no longer have to be added to flour. It was argued that people could get adequate supplies from other foods. The regulations, if passed by Parliament, would come into force in 1986.

The move was met with consternation by doctors. They were concerned in particular that elderly women and youngsters in poorer communities - two groups especially prone to bone disease and for whom bread forms an important part of their diet - might suffer from the loss of a vital source of calcium.

Now the millers are also calling for the requirements to be retained. The National Association of British and Irish Millers is to meet the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and, it hopes, the DHSS next month to discuss the issue.

Cold response

Keep warm this winter. Even a slight fall in body temperature can affect a person's mental functioning and researchers at London Hospital Medical College have discovered. They fear this could be the cause of accidents. It has been known for some time that a severe drop in body temperature causes confusion, loss of consciousness and even death. Now in a series of ingenious experiments which involved immersing volunteers in baths of water at different temperatures, Professor Bill Keatinge and his colleagues have shown that even mild cooling could be important.

They have found that individuals have no difficulty remembering facts they learned while warm if they get chilled. However a person's ability to learn new things begins to deteriorate as soon as his or her temperature falls below 36.7C just three tenths of a degree below the normal body temperature. By the time a person's temperature has fallen to 34 or 35C, which would be regarded clinically as very cold or hypothermic, his or her ability to remember is cut by 70 per cent.

In addition, the time a person takes to do calculations lengthens as body temperature drops, until at around 34C simple tasks can take twice as long.

The aim of these experiments was to find out why diving accidents occur. The researchers believe, however, that their findings could also be significant to other people who need speedy and effective responses, but who are also likely to get cold - car drivers for example.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

Angela Douglas tells Penny Perrick of life without Kenneth More

Angela Douglas started to write her autobiography "Swings and Roundabouts" as occupational therapy for both herself and her husband, Kenneth More, who was dying of a rare form of Parkinson's disease. "I thought as soon as the spring arrived, I'd be able to stop. My plan was to go back to the publisher, give them back the money they'd paid me as an advance and say, 'Thanks very much. I got me through the winter but I can't possibly write a book'."

Instead, she went on writing after Kenneth More's death 14 months ago and has produced a book that's quirky, touching and sometimes very painful to read, something far removed from most ghost-written showbiz autobiographies held together by strings of anecdotes.

Kenneth More might not have been ideal husband material for anyone but Angela. He was never around on house-moving days, loved to stay out late drinking at the Garrick and definitely thought that looking after him should take precedence over his wife's acting career. He was also charming, intelligent and brave.

"Loving him was my disease," says Angela in *Swings and Roundabouts*, but if it was, Kenneth had it too. It is clear from his autobiography, *More or Less* that he adored Angela, his third wife and 26 years his junior, in a way that he had never felt about any other woman. "A day without her was like a summer without the sun... She was 21 when I met her, and I was 47. With that



Angela: "We went through fire together"

youth, she has also given me a golden bonus I had no right to expect, the priceless gift of love."

Their fights were spectacular. "You take me out - send me round and show me off - then you put me back in my box," complained Angela, who throughout 20 years of what she calls "satellite living", felt "almost numb with lack of identity". At one point she left him, Kenneth, with infuriating logic, merely pretending that she had left, a stance that irresistibly brought her back to him.

"You've got to find out

A rose blossoms once again

whether you're a violet or a climbing rose," is one of her firm beliefs and during Kenneth's last illness, she proved she was a climbing rose. "During the time he was ill I was literally pink with pleasure, suffused with fulfilment. My best friend said that she didn't find this surprising because 'all you ever needed was for him to need you'. During that last year of Kenneth's life, Angela's best friend died of cancer and her sister, Elaine, was killed in a car crash. Angela went staunchly on, cheering Kenneth up, having her hair done, going to keep-fit classes. "If I'd gone around looking terrible, it would have had a bad effect on him. Anyway, what's the alternative other than coping? You only start to panic when there is an alternative."

It was only after Kenneth's death, on July 12, 1982, when he was 67, that the exhaustion set in. "I was so tired that if I just went out to have tea with a friend, I'd have to go to bed for 36 hours afterwards. I thought I was going to die of exhaustion. Now, I take life one day at a

time. Ten days out of eleven I can cope and if a bad day hits me, I just huddle under the duvet until it's over.

"I'd like some peace of mind, and I'm getting some, gradually. I worried about Kenny dying for 20 years. That's the swings and roundabouts situation again, isn't it? If you marry someone older, you worry that they might die; if you marry someone young, you worry that they might push off."

"Kenneth and I went through fire together. One of the worst times was when he left home to live with me and was shunned by most of his friends. That's had a lasting effect on me. The price I paid for living through that time is that I'm still, socially, very insecure."

"There are lots of things I could do now. Kenny wasn't very keen on my doing anything new, he'd say: 'Do it when I've gone'. I've got television work. I'm helping to run the Kenneth More Memorial Fund, in aid of research into Parkinson's Disease - we've raised £80,000 in nine months. In fact, at 42, I'm having a taste of the sort of life that Kenny had - and it's very nice. I can understand why he was always so happy."

"I can't really give advice to other widows; I think everyone has to cope in the way that's best for them, but I would say: if you can grab hold of a bit of hope, you'll be astonished at the effect."

"Swings and Roundabouts. An Autobiography by Angela Douglas. Published by Elm Tree Books at £8.95.

One illness you cannot kiss better

FIRST PERSON

Jonathan Sale

If it is any consolation to Sebastian Coe and David Steel, I know exactly how they feel. What I have in common is not athletic record-breaking (far from it) or leading the Liberals (even farther from it) but rather it is being bowled over by a mystery virus and not being able to pick oneself up the following week, month or, in my case, year.

With David Steel, the disease seemed to be influenza. Sebastian Coe, unfortunately, is being placed under the microscope, with particular reference to his glands. If my own glandular fever is anything to go by, he will not be running for the bus, let alone the next Olympics.

My day was early in September 1966, an evening, to be precise, when I began to feel

what doctors refer to as "a bit under the weather, old chap". Next morning I appeared to have flu, except that the symptoms were all slightly different.

The locum got it right first time: "It looks like glandular fever," he said, lowering his voice and barely in time refraining from crossing himself.

Today there is AIDS for practising gays, and for promiscuous heterosexuals there is herpes. In 1966 we had to make do with infectious mononucleosis, alias "the kissing disease", which shows how well-behaved we were. It was quite enough to be going on with.

Glandular fever is very rarely fatal but, always, very, very boring. The patient gets up after a week and imagines that recovery is on the way. Certainly this patient did, but it was not. After three weeks, I staggered back to work, only to have the symptoms recur.

"I've got glandular fever," I told the GP, now back from his ill-earned holidays.

"I decide what you've got", he snapped, although he never made up his mind, to judge by the bottle of placebo he prescribed. After a while I left my job, bachelor flat, friends and girlfriends (none of whom, despite the disease's nickname, seemed to have been any the worse), and moved into my parents' house, where the service was better.

"Yes, it might be glandular fever," agreed the local GP, taking a blood test. "No it's not," he declared on examining the results. I got up for a week and the symptoms returned. He took another test. "Yes, it could well be glandular fever," he stated.

Soon I was up and about. This was Christmas 1966. Convalescence went on for a year. "We know all about glandular fever," said the GP, "except what it is and how to cure it." Finally, around Christmas 1967, I gave in. The GP had long ago suggested that it might be all in the mind and that, how should he put it, a mental expert might be in order.

I went to a psychiatrist who

ran through his list of tablets, most of which made me see double, until he chanced upon a tranquillizer named Librium. Literally overnight, I was firing on four cylinders again, back in business, nose to the grindstone and other figures of speech that had been totally foreign to me.

I celebrated the seventeenth anniversary of the glandular attack by consulting Dr T. J. Jamali, a haematologist at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Bournemouth, and author of a recent *British Medical Journal* paper on the subject.

"We know it's the Epstein-Barr virus, a type of herpes virus discovered in 1964. A lot of patients are written off as hysterical or neurotic, but such a condition as yours really does exist. The longest history I found was 10 years. You can treat the symptoms with non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory drugs."

Now he tells me. They have known what it is and how to combat it. Let's hope that Sebastian Coe is in the right hands.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Delaying the name

The selection committee that is to nominate a successor to Ralf Dahrendorf as director of the London School of Economics is in disarray. The reason is not so much disagreement over the successor, whose name it hoped to announce next Tuesday, as the absence through illness of both Professor Dahrendorf and the pro-director, Alan Day. It may be impossible now to keep to the Tuesday deadline. My favourite is still Professor Barry Supple, although one dark horse is said to be Shirley Williams, SDP president and a friend of Dahrendorf. Mrs Williams confirms she was approached, but says she is not interested - yet.

Seeing the wood

Harpers & Queen has discovered the environment - which is a bit like Gertrude Stein accepting the universe - and, predictably, has zoomed in on the personable Jonathan Porritt, a 32-year-old Old Etonian who is all that most people know about the Ecology Party. The current issue shows Jonathan in his usual pose "under the greenwood tree", ever inch "that rare combination in the Green Movement: acceptable at a dance and invaluable at a public inquiry". I like better his 10-point "green-print for survival", which includes the exhortation to eschew plastic carrier bags. This indecently fat issue of *Harpers*, the editors have the grace to admit, at 350 pages "probably cleared a forest".

Own goal

Who says the far left has no sense of humour? Consider the following from a recent issue of *Red Action*, the organ of the Squadists, breakaways from the Socialist Workers Party. "About 60 assorted molls and their supporters came to a *Red Action* public meeting on Ireland the evening before the hunger strikers march part two. After a brief history of Britain's bloody role in Ireland over the last 800 years, several speakers outlined the reasons for our unconditional and uncritical support for the armed struggle. A special award for initiative and intelligence will not be going to the *Red Action* member who managed to book the meeting in the pub used by the Glasgow Rangers London supporters club".



Barry Fantoni

Horning in

I am often taken aback at the acquisitiveness of my readers, in the nicest possible way of course. Recent disclosures about the availability of Munch lithographs, French grapevines and even the sponsorship of butterfly reserves have provoked vast surges of inquiries. Here is your big chance: a Tlingit antler comb, one of only two of its kind in existence, valued at £13,380. Its report has been suspended for two months by the Minister for the Arts to give public collections in Britain a crack at it. The Tlingits are not a mistyping of Things but a tribe that lived on the north-west coast of North America. The comb, probably of caribou antler, almost certainly dates from the earliest contact with Europeans in the eighteenth century. Don't call me; call Lord Gowrie.

● A list of newspapers requested by the heads of our great public schools, who met at St John's College, Cambridge this week, showed that 135 take *The Times* every morning, 28 *The Telegraph* and nine *The Guardian*. The remaining 43 had none.

Girl talk

Boy George, befooled male singer with the hit band Culture Club, has evidently started something. A straight-faced press release this week informs us that "in a hotly contested deal", a singer called Marilyn had signed a contract with the Phonogram record company. "Phonogram are very pleased to have concluded the deal", it continues. "We regard Marilyn as a major new talent and he is starting work in the studio this week."

My note earlier this week about the brisk letter fired off by Chelsea FC chairman Ken Bates to young Ian Brunning, who had complained about violence at the Brighton-Chelsea match, has apparently inspired Bates to reconsider. In rather more measured tones he has written again to say that "I hope that with the passing of time you can agree with me" and inviting Brunning to be his guest at Chelsea's next home game so he can see for himself how most of the club's supporters behave. Nice one, Ian.

Reagan, sailing to disaster?

DAMASCUS When the American battleship *New Jersey* appeared off Beirut last week, she made an impressive sight. Her 16-inch guns, capable of sending one-ton shells 20 miles into Lebanon, were clearly visible from shore as she steamed slowly north.

The message was simple: Washington's commitment to President Amin Gemayel's regime was a credible one, supported as it was by overwhelming fire-power. Or so it seemed.

Yet the *New Jersey*'s guns were built for another war. They were intended to scour the beaches of Pacific islands to eliminate suicidal Japanese troops before US marines stormed ashore. One broadside can blow up a hill, wipe out a village, destroy half a town. Was this really what the Americans were threatening to do in Lebanon?

It dawned on some of those in Beirut who had advocated this show of force. American embassy officials among them - that the guns of the *New Jersey* might be only psychological, that they dare not actually be fired.

This was not so evident in Damascus. The Syrian army concluded that the intention was to destroy the strategic mountain road west of Chautara that is used to carry arms and ammunition from the Druze Valley up into the Chouf foothills. Only the *New Jersey*'s guns could reach that far.

For the Syrians, the message was therefore simple: the US was threatening to cut the supply line to the Druze militias and force them to negotiate with President Gemayel. One day after the *New Jersey* steamed up the coast, the Druze and the Syrians did agree to a ceasefire.

But would the Americans ever have fired the *New Jersey*'s guns? And who are their enemies supposed to be? These are important questions because few diplomats in either Beirut or Damascus believe that the current truce will last.

At one point during the fighting President Reagan had actually given permission for US bombers to make



The *New Jersey*, symbol of US power - and impotence

air strikes against the Druze when the government army was in imminent danger of losing the village of Souf el-Gharb on the ridges above Beirut. They had made an initial pass over their targets when Mr Robert McFarlane, Mr Reagan's special envoy, decided that this would be too dramatic a military escalation and ordered a naval bombardment instead.

In some ways, it was natural that Mr McFarlane would have made such a calculation. He is a military man, an ex-Marine officer, a senior member of the National Security Council. As the State Department and its advisers in the Middle East carry ever less influence in Washington, so US military involvement in Lebanon has increased. We have heard precious little from Mr McFarlane, for example, about Washington's long-term policy objectives.

According to Mr Reagan, the Americans are witnessing "Soviet-sponsored aggression" in Lebanon. The Russians, he says, are "bent on imperialism, on expansion and aggression". Mr Reagan has often cited Afghanistan as an example of this Soviet policy.

The Druze in Lebanon find this a curiously appropriate parallel: just as the Russians have decided to assault a poor, agrarian, Islamic people, they say, so have the Americans chosen to attack an Islamic sect fighting for its homeland in Lebanon. Just as Moscow has claimed that the US sponsors

arms supplies to the Mujahideen guerrillas in Afghanistan, so the US is now claiming that the Russians are using the Syrians to send arms to the Druze.

The Druze parallel is a facile one, but it does point up Mr Reagan's apparent inability to understand just what is going on in Lebanon. When the Israelis invaded last year, they injected their Christian Phalangist allies into the Druze foothills and thus fuelled a civil war that broke out in all its fury when they withdrew their army to the Awali River early this month.

The Druze drove the Phalangists out of 85 per cent of the mountains, then found that the government army was taking over positions previously held by the Phalangists. In some cases, Phalangist and Lebanese army guns fired virtually alongside each other against the Druze. Thus a new conflict was kindled, with the US dragged in.

Moscow watched all this with interest, if not with pleasure. Since the Israelis began their withdrawal on September 4, at least six senior Soviet officials and two generals have flown to Damascus to be briefed on the fighting.

It is this issue of taking sides that is at the crux of the problem. The US insists that it is supporting the legitimate government of President Gemayel. But the Gemayel family secured presidency only with Israel's support, and in President Gemayel's brief period of tenure he has alienated many of his own people.

In one sense, Mr Reagan has at least identified one of the principal adversaries of his Middle East policy. For President Assad, the Syrian-Israeli war has not yet ended. He wishes to ensure, for strategic as well as political reasons, that Israel receives no rewards for her invasion of Lebanon.

Syria does not in fact want the civil war in Lebanon to continue, though it has ferried hundreds of tons of arms and supplies to the Druze over the past month. There is a Druze community inside Syria itself, and the security authorities here have already formed a Christian-Druze committee to ensure that no hostilities between the two faiths break out within Syria.

There have nevertheless been a number of disputes between them and the Syrian authorities have now banned Syrian Druze from travelling to Lebanon to fight alongside the Druze militia there. The potential for conflict is a matter of serious concern to the authorities in Damascus, for both the Druze and the Christians form important elements in the Syrian armed forces.

The price of peace now looks like a permanent US presence in Lebanon, supporting a government that will be increasingly susceptible to Syrian - and thus Soviet - influence and ever less friendly to Washington's closest Middle East ally, Israel.

Lebanon has broken or helped to break many politicians and diplomats over the years: the most recent of them Alexander Haig, Ariel Sharon, Philip Habib and Menachem Begin. With the US presidential elections scarcely a year away, Mr Reagan would do well to bear this in mind.

The *New Jersey* still lies off the Lebanese coast, a symbol of power and also of impotence. The Lebanese will soon be able to find out if it also represents current US policy in the Middle East, whether, too, it might be a portent of an American tragedy in the region.

Robert Fisk

Hongkong: Bernard Levin considers the human factor

To the rescue - of five million



bit too far, in contrast with the liberal Khrushchev. Then Khrushchev was no more, and heads were shaken, lips pursed, thank goodness for the truly liberal Mr Brezhnev, who will have none of the excesses of his predecessor. Then Brezhnev died and was buried neatly, and at once we were being told that the almost unbearably liberal Mr Andropov was going to do away with the cruelties and oppressions of the brutal Brezhnev.

So it is with China. We have not, thank God, heard anything from some time from Messrs Felix Greene and Neville Maxwell, but look at the famous "Wall of Democracy", with its array of hand-written posters and newspapers demanding elections and such. But you will need keen eyes to look at it; it was swept away a couple of years ago, and the writers of the messages shipped off to the concentration camps in the Chinese interior, where they will have plenty of time to look forward to the denunciations of their jailers by western fellow-travellers just as soon as their jailers have been replaced by new and unbelievably liberal successors.

If Hongkong reverts in 1997 to rule by China, it will be ruled by one of the most complete and ruthless dictators on earth. Not, to be sure, the worst of all, and not with the insane ferocity of Mao's storm-troopers, but a system of government nevertheless that denies all the freedoms that we have in full in Britain and that the people of Hongkong have in ample measure. Fourteen years is not a long time in politics when the politics in question consists of matters as momentous as that.

Very well; he who pricks the bubble must provide the soap. If, as I insist, it is unthinkable that Britain should hand over five million British-protected persons, citizens of the Commonwealth for whom we have a direct and inescapable constitutional responsibility, to the monstrous tyranny of Chinese communism (as well as, incidentally, to the monstrous poverty of the same), can and should be done about it while there is yet time?

First, let us agree that if the Chinese rulers stand upon their rights under thecession treaty, and it seems clear that they will, we cannot refuse to abide by its terms. It would be interesting, no doubt, to drop an independent nuclear deterrent or two on Peking, but this is not a practicable possibility, or for that matter a nice one. What other, more realistic choices are there?

I believe that there is only one. We must regard Hongkong as a ship that is going to sink 14 years from now, and we must mount a rescue operation to save all its passengers and crew. Those citizens of Hongkong who refuse to accept rule by China (no doubt some, not necessarily including all its substantial communist minority, will be willing to do so) must be helped to leave and to settle elsewhere.

Obviously, this cannot be done by simply inviting them to Britain, though as a matter of fact the astounding diligence, and capacity for hard work that the Hongkong Chinese have displayed for many years could transform our economy. An abrupt influx of some millions of Asians would be unassimilable, quite apart from the clamour raised by Mr Enoch Powell, who, to judge by his comments on

Lebanon, in any case probably believes that it is no business of Britain's who rules in Hongkong.

As soon as the question of the post-1997 rule of Hongkong is settled, Britain must launch what may well prove to be the most gigantic international enterprise ever conducted. Our government must not, of course, take the problem to the United Nations - as well hope to save a lamb from a tiger by putting it under the protection of a wolf - but must seek to set up and convene an association of countries willing to be part of the rescue operation. This means - must mean - willing to take in a share of the refugees; I know that this is not a propitious time to be asking countries struggling with recession to offer such hospitality, but we are entitled to demand that countries which value freedom for themselves should practically help the cause of freedom elsewhere; the American right, for a start, can show what sincerity there is in their eternal claim that US policy "lost China to the communists" by demanding that their country play its full part in the operation. Nor can we be too squeamish about the invitations; just as the present Chinese totalitarianism is obviously not as bad as the Soviet one, so there are countries more or less authoritarian which for the refugees would be a very considerable improvement on rule from Peking, the most obvious of these being Singapore (Taiwan, the natural choice, itself faces a too critical and uncertain future vis-a-vis China.)

On the whole, the modern world's behaviour towards refugees and tyrannical has been appalling: from the persecuted Jews of Nazi Germany, via the victims of Yalta sent to their death in the Soviet Union at the end of the war, all the way to the "boat people" of Vietnam, the characteristic sound of the West faced with appeals from the suffering has been the slamming of a door. Only India, who could hardly help herself in the circumstances, went against this sorry tide: a million people fled from East Bengal, or Bangladesh, into the already suffocating Calcutta. But Calcutta, it is worth pointing out, has survived.

In any case, the Hongkong refugees are different, in one crucial respect, from all others. Hitherto, refugees have been those fleeing from tyranny, war, expropriation or indeed natural catastrophe; but they have all been fleeing from something actually happening to them, or imminently about to. The rescue of the people of Hongkong will be a rescue from something that is inevitable, but is not due to happen for another 14 years. That means that, uniquely, there is time for the help needed by the refugees to be carefully and gradually planned, explained, and finally provided.

But there will only be time for such an operation if it is started soon. No doubt Mrs Thatcher wishes Hongkong had never existed, at any rate as a British responsibility. But it is a British responsibility, and if men must die to uphold that responsibility in the South Atlantic, they must live to uphold it in the China Sea.

Our government will be tempted to hope that something will turn up, to argue that the situation in a decade or so may be utterly different from what it is now, even to try the obvious fraud of accepting Chinese assurances that Hongkong will be allowed to stay free. But the earth goes round once a day, and when it has gone round another 5,000 times or so, it will be too late to turn it back. In the words with which Churchill used to end his wartime minutes: Action this day.

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David Watt

World Bank but no world view

Of all the expressions of postwar international idealism, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund have been by far the most durable and effective. Both bodies have had faults and limitations but they have, for nearly 40 years, abundantly testified to the practical genius of Keynes and White and the rest of their creators.

Obviously it would be wrong to say that they have been responsible for the prodigious growth of the world economy since 1945. It is certainly true that the Bank has spread that growth far more widely than would otherwise have been the case and the IMF has stabilized and smoothed its progress in a remarkable fashion.

Of course the business cycle has continued on its switchback way, but the elaborate system of international financial cooperation, of which the IMF and Bank are the central pillars, has successfully prevented the wild fluctuations of earlier times. What is more, they have borne witness to the fundamental commitment of the modern industrial world to the idea that purposeful international cooperation can prevent a return to the anarchy and misery of the inter-war years.

It is very evident from the news from Washington this week that both institutions are in a bad way. What has gone wrong? Why is it that the IMF is on the brink of running out of cash? Why isn't the Bank allowed to increase its capital and why is its soft-loan offshoot, the International Development Association, being starved of funds? If the pillars are being eroded, is not the whole edifice likely to crash into ruins?

The short answer is that things do indeed look black, and the reason is not so much because immediate disaster would strike if the operations of IMF and Bank came to a halt. At a pinch, no doubt, we should find other stopgap ways of shoring up the building. The disturbing thing is to observe the attitudes that the present crisis betrays in the main actors on this international economic stage. Here, as elsewhere in the international system, a myopic, panicky nationalism holds sway, with everyone desperately struggling and chafing against the bonds of their dependence on others, instead of trying to manage their interdependence more constructively.

In this case the main - though not the sole - culprit at present is the US, where an unholy alliance of motives appears to be at work. The least dubious of these is a strong ideological commitment to financial "discipline". The argument of, say, Mr Donald Regan, the US Secretary of the Treasury, would go something like this: "The liberals want us to solve the 'present crisis' of Third World debt by pouring new money into the IMF and Bank. But if we do that, how will we ever induce them to live within their means?"

There are real arguments here and I do not want to dismiss them lightly. The trouble is that what comes across far more clearly than these economic pros and cons is the tone of the debate, which is less related to the technicalities of whether there should be more world liquidity than it is to what scores are going to be paid off.

One of the main elements in the Congressional debate, for instance,

is a desire to punish the private bankers for their "irresponsible" lending to Latin America in 1980 and 1981. Congressmen, particularly of the old radical variety, are on a similar rampage. The argument is that if the IMF and Bank get a bit of new money to bail out Brazil and the other debtor countries, these will then repay their debts to the private sector, and the fat cats in Dallas and Atlanta and New York will be able to relax in their limousines again. It is another factor in the situation, which goes much wider is a powerful resentment against the Third World. The prevailing view in Congress and in some parts of the Administration is that developing countries are spendthrifts, ingrates, anti-American and often pro-communist. The remarks (since endorsed by President Reagan himself) of one of the senior US representatives to the United Nations to the effect that if that organization floated off down the East River in New York, Americans would be on the dock cheering them goodbye, sums up the mood exactly.

But the most important factor is an unstated but strong suspicion of multilateralism. The basic objection of the new right to the Bank and IMF is precisely the aspect of their activities that most concerned them to their founding fathers - the attempt to tame the raw politics of these international economic questions. A political board takes the ultimate decisions and, unlike the UN General Assembly, countries like the US who put up most money get the most pull; but the proposals originate in a supposedly neutral secretariat and are worked out on relatively objective criteria. Major contributors have to submit a move, to uncomfortable intellectual debate and moral pressure in the ruling committee.

The constraints upon the use of American power that these arrangements represent are bitterly resented and interlock with the notion of the world Hobbesian jungle, impenetrable to human reason, where power is almost the only arbiter of affairs and well-meaning attempts to plan will only make matters worse.

The views I am describing here are, of course, not consistently held and even at their most extreme tend to be mixed up, in a confusing fashion, with high-flown echoes of the multilateral past and occasional recognition that the enlightened self-interest of the West and the northern hemisphere may require a more flexible and cooperative approach. President Reagan's address to the Bank/IMF meeting this week, for instance, combined support for the fund in principle with a tenacious refusal to prevent its being able to expand in practice. The rescue of Mexico last year and the rescue of Brazil now being negotiated are evidence that in a crisis, the instinct of self-preservation overrides dogma and suspicion. These countries cannot be allowed to default, for if they did, a major financial crash would follow.

But crisis management is not enough and in the long haul what we need is bigger and better cooperative, permanent institutions. It is possible that the Bank and the IMF are, as their critics claim, being asked to do the impossible, in that case they should be reformed and they will only be reformed successfully in a climate very different from that which now appears to prevail in Washington.

Philip Howard

Fine cuts and no padding

Not everything that calls itself a sport is sporting. Twelve-metre yacht racing is evidently a branch of higher crime, in which whoever has the most money, cheats best, and whinges loudest when losing. Wins. It is as exciting for spectators as watching an oak tree growing. Shooting pheasants that have been bred for death is sport only in a transferred sense. A rat-killing match with sticks and terriers would be far more sporting.

At the other end of the scale, among the true sports, there is one that is not just a sport, but an art form also; and that, of course, is cricket. We see nothing incongruous about a great critic such as Neville Cardus combining musical criticism with cricket criticism. The idea of a great opera critic combining it with a lesser sport like golf is absurd. Maybe we should carry our cricket reports on the Arts Page.

Cricket is not just a sport and an art, but also a very English idiosyncrasy. As such, it attracts far more letters in that pavilion of national idiosyncrasies, the Letters Page of *The Times*, than all other sports combined. My ingenious friend and colleague, Marcus Williams, one rainy day had the notion of searching the back-numbers of *The Times* for cricketing letters. He gave up counting when the number he had unpaged passed the world record first-class score of 1,107 by Victoria against New South Wales.

Many of them have a passion that the English reserve for matters of national importance, such as royalty and cruelty to animals. You might suppose that a campaign to reform the law would be a dry topic of interest only to insiders and inswingers. But here is F. G. J. Ford: "six feet two of don't care", the cricketing scribes called him because of his insouciant approach to bating - driving and hooking in the correspondence columns of *The Times* on the subject of the parsimonious pad-play that made the change necessary: "the evil microbes", "the fons et origo mali"; "this curse of modern cricket which has eaten into the very soul of the

game and cast a slur upon the moral value of the very word 'cricket'." He demanded that the practice be stamped out "like an earwig under the boot".

Today Marcus publishes a selection of cricketing letters to *The Times* between hard covers under the title of *The Way to Lord's* (Collins). Hard covers for matches are one of the topics. Others indicate that there is nothing new under the cricketing sun. A century ago letters were deploring in Doomsday tones that cricket was dying or dead. Years ahead of their time correspondents to *The Times* were recommending the cancellation of a tour by South Africa to England (1901); demanding Sunday play in Test matches (1926); investigating against overseas players in the English game (1909); and the readiness of players to leave the field for bad light (1913).

The correspondents themselves are a notable team, led by W.C. Grace, on the perennial crusade of reform of the law. He could pick his team of cricketing letter-writers from 16 other England captains, Leerie Constantine from the West Indies, Richie Benaud and many others representing Australia, Rajsinghi (a letter more than a column long, stating at the end that he had written as briefly as possible), as well as second, third, and fourth class test players. But who will captain the amateur amateurs: Field Marshal Montgomery, Sir Alan Herbert, or Ned Sherrin?

It is apparent that batsmen rather than bowlers are moved to seize pen and scribble a letter to *The Times*. Among the jollier suggestions advanced on the Letters Page have been that the batsmen should discard their pads; that a batsman who plays out a maiden over should automatically be "out"; and that umpires should call "no runs" as well as "wides" to discourage pad-play. A well-timed off-drive, preferably made by oneself, is one of the great pleasures of life. But this rich collection will do very nicely to keep us warm in the months when rain stops play.



THE CHINA CARD

By inviting President Reagan to China next April, Mr Deng Xiaoping and other Chinese leaders are telling the world - and China - that Sino-American relations are on the mend. But they also have one eye on next year's American presidential elections. For a long time they harboured grave doubts about President Reagan and his intentions. But now, it seems, they have accepted that he is a man they can work with, and if need be can go on working with for the next five years.

The immediate cause of this change of heart has been the Reagan Administration's decision to ease restrictions on the export of high technology to China, especially electronics and communications equipment that can be used by the Chinese military. One of the main tasks of the United States Defence Secretary, Mr Casper Weinberger, during his visit to China this week was to assure his hosts that this decision is being implemented. The Chinese have long been asking for more, and more sophisticated, technology from the Americans, and the whole issue has become highly political. Some people in Washington, and in American defence industries, have argued against exempting China from the rules governing technology transfers to Communist states, while the Chinese themselves have chosen to regard President Reagan's attitude to technology transfers as an index of his attitude to China as a whole.

Other obstacles in the way of better relations have also been removed recently. The Reagan Administration has changed its mind about helping China with its nuclear energy programme; and a lingering dispute over Chinese textile exports has been

resolved. In themselves such disputes were relatively minor affairs, but they exacerbated other, more deep-rooted tensions - especially over Taiwan.

The Taiwan question remains the principal source of friction between the two sides. The Chinese leadership no longer accuses President Reagan of hankering after a "two China" or a "one China, one Taiwan" policy as it did until early this year. And President Reagan himself has moved a long way from the position he took as presidential candidate in 1980, when he advocated upgrading America's ties with Taiwan.

Indeed, it is arguable that during the last eighteen months or so he has made at least as many concessions over Taiwan as his predecessors. But Peking still takes strong exception to the high level of American arms sales to Taiwan, which it claims, violates the Sino-American communiqué issued last year. And Chinese leaders still insist - as they did during Mr Weinberger's visit to Peking this week - that real progress in bilateral relations depends on the Taiwan problem being solved.

There has however been a marked change of tone in Chinese statements on Taiwan of late, and it appears that Chinese leaders are prepared to shelve the issue whilst securing concessions in other fields. This is not to say that China's long-term strategy towards Taiwan is changing. Mr Deng Xiaoping is an old man in a hurry, and he has put the reunification of Taiwan with China high on his political agenda. But now that he feels more confident about President Reagan's attitude towards China, he may be prepared to relax a little as far as Taiwan is concerned. Besides, he

may well think that in other respects the Reagan Administration suits China very well. President Reagan's tough, uncompromising attitude towards the Soviet Union enables China to gain more leeway in its own dealings with the two superpowers, secure in the knowledge that they will not join forces against it.

So much for the view from Peking. But does what suits China suit the United States equally well? In China this week the Defence Secretary seemed to suggest that Peking and Washington might eventually revive the close partnership of the late 1970s when they joined in what the Chinese called an anti-Soviet united front. He also spoke hopefully of Sino-American military co-operation, and renewed an American offer to supply China with defensive weapons. But the Chinese took a much more cautious line, and emphasised their independence vis-à-vis the two superpowers. In other words the United States is putting itself in the position of offering arms and technology to China, but without much assurance that a close relationship will develop as a result.

Indeed, the intractable nature of the Taiwan problem suggests that such a relationship could not be achieved, even if the will to achieve it were there.

President Reagan may regard the prospect of better relations between Washington and Peking as a useful bargaining counter in his dealings with Moscow. Indeed his visit to Peking has always been viewed in Washington as a precondition of any consideration about a summit meeting with Mr Andropov. It remains to be seen now whether the two leaders feel they have a mutual interest in a meeting.

THE HOSKYN'S FILE

A voice that challenges the received ideas and practices of public life is always welcome. In the courtesies of the welcome, however, there is some risk that the challenge itself will escape stringent criticism. This is particularly so when it sounds as beguilingly radical as Sir John Hoskyn's attack on British political institutions did this week.

In delivering the Institute of Directors' annual lecture, Sir John (himself a successful industrialist) drew upon his experience as former head of the Prime Minister's policy unit. His theme was that the Conservatives' social and economic principles (which he fully supported) were not enough for good government because the institutional machinery is all wrong, and because the Prime Minister saw no need to change it.

Sir John therefore not only appealed for debate outside Whitehall but specifically suggested that business leaders should "do more than write cheques and ask favours". In other words, he implied that, by a kind of extra-parliamentary action on the right, they should demand institutional change as the price of their gifts to the Conservative Party, and follow the example of the trade unions when they have tried to write policy treaties with Labour administrations.

The changes they ought to demand were expressed in very generalized terms. The Prime Minister should no longer be restricted to the small pool of career politicians in forming a government; Whitehall must be organized for strategy and innovation, as well as for day to day survival; outsiders must be

brought into the civil service; the work load on ministers should be reduced. The methodology (to use one of Sir John's favourite words) by which these changes should be achieved was, however, hardly described; the most interesting part of the lecture was the justifying analysis.

Sir John's premise was that the Conservatives' second term requires a gradual transformation of our entire political economy, covering public spending, the future of the welfare state, price stability, the distortions of the tax and benefits system and a search for a proper role for the unions. His reasoning leads him towards the proposition that all-embracing welfare provisions erode the economic processes necessary to support them.

It would be hard to fault this diagnosis, but at this point Sir John took off towards horizons curiously similar to those which lured fashionable thinking in the Fifties and Sixties when it was taken as axiomatic that everything wrong with Britain could be ascribed to an antiquated parliament and a civil service full of people who had read Great Unleavened by outsiders.

We are, he argues, governed by a small political club of about 3,400 civil servants and MPs, by ministers who are guided by mediocre civil servants who do not think but merely reflect preconceived departmental positions. Ministers are over-worked amateurs who change portfolios too often and are distracted by collective responsibility.

Yet the industrialists imported by Churchill into his post-war government made little mark compared with politicians

of the Macmillan-Butler vintage. Lord Wilson's outsiders did not transform the scene. Mr Heath imported outsiders into departments and invented the "think-tank" but politics were not regenerated. Instead, political touch was so little regarded that we ended with industrial strife, a three-day week and the government's fall.

More movement between Whitehall and industry would benefit both. But it is not Whitehall that can give direction to policy but only the politicians. It would be good if their calibre could be improved but bringing in outsiders without political skill would not necessarily improve it. In fact, if the Prime Minister wished to buttress her government by an outsider of monumental potential she could already do so by bringing him or her into the Cabinet through the Lords.

Sir John is right to say that fresh thinking about the nature and direction of politics is urgently needed, that politicians should not be limited by the belief that necessary things are unattainable, and should rely more on the good sense of the electorate. But this change will not come either from making mandarins less mediocre or abolishing Cabinet collective responsibility and making each departmental minister self-sufficient. The drive for new political thinking must come from the Cabinet and above all from the Prime Minister. Unless Sir John has some thoughts about how Prime Ministers in particular and MPs in general are to be selected, his prescription does not deal with the heart of the problem he has properly raised.

SECURITY IS A STATE OF MIND

Cynics have long argued that the arms race would slow down only when nations running in it were growing short of breath. Latest projections by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) suggest however that this distant dream is about to become a reality. The recession on the one hand and the mounting cost of defence on the other have for some time imposed constraints upon the Western democracies, including Britain. *The Military Balance 1983-4* suggests however that even the Gulf oil states, faced by rising debts and falling revenue, may soon have to count their petrodollars.

But the effect is unlikely to be equal and can hardly benefit the West. This is not so much because the Soviet Union and its satellites are economically sounder, but because it is politically easier for a totalitarian state to concentrate scarce resources on defence than it is for a liberal democracy with all the openly competing claims on its budget.

Nor is this kind of effect likely to be limited to Britain. Conventional defence is relatively more expensive than nuclear in that the latter guarantees, as it is said, a bigger bang for the buck. The temptation for countries which are feeling the pinch must be to rely more heavily on the H-bomb than the iron one. Moreover this arises at a time when General Bernard Rogers, Nato's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, is campaigning, alongside others, for an increase in allied defence spending to raise the nuclear threshold. One conclusion to be drawn from *The Military Balance* this year is that the reverse is more likely to happen.

The other trend to which the institute points, the shrinking pool of available young men for the armed forces, will add to the pressures for reducing national dependence on manpower. The trend is already discernible with the development of more "smart" or precision-guided munitions - and indeed the IISS notes that the "arms race" is going into reverse only in terms of quantity. Money is still being spent on raising quality.

If governments insist on maintaining numbers, they may have to turn to recruits who are older, less fit and more often female. These are policy decisions which may be taken by countries which rely upon conscription. For those like Britain which rely upon volunteers it may simply make life more difficult for those in charge of recruiting. It should already have led to a much more radical approach to the possibilities in reservist manpower.

West Germany is likely to be even more drastically affected, certainly in terms of overall numbers. This has already been noted by the Bundeswehr and has been used in argument against any idea of redeploying British or American divisions in the front line and replacing them with Germans.

None of these difficulties suggests that, whatever the rising cost of defence and the declining manpower may be, there will be any palpable reduction in the firepower available to men of ill-will. Disarmament or arms control should not start with the weapons, but the state of mind which orders them.

Impact on hospital morale of health service cuts

From Mr Graham Petrie

Sir, I imagine that it is only a very small minority of your readers, and an even smaller one in the Government, who have experience of working in a psychiatric hospital. For this reason it will be difficult for most people to understand the impact of the privatization issue in such a community.

I work in one of the psychiatric hospitals built in the last century, where we care for some 500 inpatients and many day patients in various acute and specialist departments.

We are a beleaguered community still coping with the difficulties of this year's reorganisation of the health service. It may surprise you to know that we are some 170 nurses short by the Government's "norms" (one may wonder about the quality of management that has allowed such a situation to arise).

Nevertheless the dedicated body of nursing staff, along with all the valuable ancillary staff, have maintained until now a good morale and an atmosphere in which the care of patients comes first.

Now we are faced with the issue of "privatization". This will mean not only a loss of jobs and the disappearance of familiar faces whom we have come to know and trust, but it will also destroy the sense of community which is so important in the treatment of psychiatric patients, especially those who have hitherto spent their lives in the hospital.

Paradoxically, we are on the brink of exciting developments in the mental health service and the move away from institutions such as this one will accelerate in the next 10 years. This is Government policy, but how it can be achieved with a demoralised and depressed group of staff is very difficult to understand.

Somewhere, somewhere, must stop this senseless destruction of a valuable service, which is all for the sake of a few miserable pieces of silver.

I hope that by bringing this to your attention we may yet be saved from this vandalism. Sincerely, GRAHAM PETRIE, Fulbourn Hospital, Cambridge.

From Mr D. W. Parry

Sir, There is a more serious problem than that of "crying wolf" in the reaction of the regional health authorities to Mr Fowler's one per cent cut.

The National Association of Health Authorities' survey, reported in your columns some days ago (leader, September 24), apparently stated that the one per cent cut will affect "essential" and "priority" services. No competent management team would categorise services in such a way and then cut them when a mere one per cent of funding was withdrawn.

The words actually mean that those services would be the last to be cut. We surely need new management in the health service - or perhaps just a supply of dictionaries?

Yours faithfully, D. W. PARRY, 6 Alceon Road, SE21.

From Mr L. Gilbert

Sir, I have paid into the NHS scheme all my working life. Having reached the age at which I am more likely to need its services, I feel cheated by the cuts being made. I am not in a position to use the private sector, which flourishes in proportion as the NHS is run down.

Recently Mrs Thatcher made comparisons between herself and Churchill. His major achievement was in uniting the ordinary people in opposition to a powerful section of the establishment which was seen by the people as pursuing policies opposed to their wishes.

In contrast Mrs Thatcher's policies are seen more and more as being divisive and uncaring of the needs of the ordinary person. If less were to be spent on arms in pursuit of an absurd goal, more resources could be made available for meaningful purposes.

Perhaps we might then see Mrs Thatcher opening hospitals, instead of climbing into tanks or warplanes. I do not recall seeing all that many pictures of Churchill engaged in the latter activity, in spite of leading the country in a real war of survival at the time. Yours sincerely, L. GILBERT, 24 Lewes Road, N12.

Lessons from KAL 007

From Mr Y. Hitzos

Sir, Although it is no use trying to obscure the fact that Greece did make a mistake in the degree of its condemnation of the Soviet action over the South Korean jet, failed to present convincingly the positive aspects of its action and failed to find the right balance between its national interests, the eternal human values and the need for maintaining rational behaviour in international relations; and, although the Soviet Union did make a mistake in shooting down the jet and in not calling a UN-sponsored international inquiry into the incident, it would be a mistake to think that your line of thinking (leading article, September 17), is devoid of those elements of heavy ideology, hysteria, oversimplification, creation of tribal feeling, self-righteousness, pharisaism and irrational belief in one's own infallibility, so that your account of the incident should be followed.

Your line of thinking is victim of the recent very un-British disease, which has struck Thatcherite Britain, which combines all the above elements and, hence, it cannot be trusted either.

Solihull schools

From Mr F. C. Saunders

Sir, The current proposal at Solihull to deal with falling school numbers by concentrating a number of the higher ability children in one or more of the existing comprehensives has excited predictable protests, some of which have appeared in your letters page (September 24 and 26). While there may well be valid objections to this proposal, it is disquieting to note that your correspondents appear not to recognise any problem about the provision for the most able by way of teaching and range of subjects in the comprehensive system as organised in this country; indeed, some even seem to suggest that high intellectual ability is unimportant and that resources should be concentrated on those less well equipped.

This is a type of argument which has been bedevilling the schools in this country for 30 years or more, during which the main objective in planning has tended to be social engineering rather than education as such. The consequence has often been a feeling that all pupils needed to be educated side by side in the same institution throughout their school career lest any differentiation

From Dr W. Tarnow-Mordi

Sir, Every doctor knows of cases where, because of overwork or shortage of nursing or medical staff, the care of critically ill patients has been compromised, with avoidable loss of life or permanent damage. These cases can only be increased by spending cuts which include proposals to restrict nursing and medical staff numbers.

By ignoring this, your editorial (September 26) implies that such consequences are acceptable in your quest for long-term economic goals like reduced taxation.

In those health authorities forced to accept new budget restrictions the Prime Minister's claim that the National Health Service is "safe" will be seen to have been an abuse of language when the first deaths due to reductions in numbers of nursing and medical staff occur.

Yours sincerely, WILLIAM TARNOW-MORDI, 14 The Croft, Headington, Oxford, September 27.

From Mr D. H. Jack

Sir, With regard to your leader in today's issue of *The Times* headed "No time to tinker" (September 26), I can only say that no amount of indulgence in semantics will serve to hide the fact that very many of our fellow citizens are suffering increasing pain and hardship as a result of the cuts already made.

Whatever may be the best way to run the health service, there will always be room for improvement. I fail to see how the closure of hospitals and the reduction in nursing and other staff can do other than serious damage.

You may choose to describe concern about this state of affairs as "hysteria". There is a word that could be applied to those who order the cuts and who support them - "callous".

I am, sir, yours sincerely, D. H. JACK, 1 Roche Gardens, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, September 26.

You seem to have forgotten that in earthly politics there is one principle which says that in politics there just isn't a total bad and total good.

Greece tried to balance out the facts, on the face of this principle, and, although, it did not fully succeed, at least it gave an inkling to those forgetters of the importance of this principle. People just won't believe that the American side is fully innocent (even 61 per cent of its own people will not do so - see today's *New York Times*/CBS poll in your newspaper), and to pretend that the fundamental principle of politics doesn't apply in the case of the West will only make international politics more irrational and uneconomical.

Also, you shouldn't forget that Greece, apart from the international politics, has a very risky local politics to take care of. In this sense, it has to be extra careful, until the West undertakes to guarantee fully its eastern borders, which it will never do.

Yours sincerely, Y. HITZOS, 22 Lvisia Street, SW6, September 17.

should involve loss of "parity of esteem". It is surely time to have a close look at this particular sacred cow, which has played a bigger part in the shaping of schools than the question of the most suitable education for the various types of pupil.

The result has often been institutions which failed to make full provision for the interests of either academic or non-academic types (e.g., inadequate foreign languages for the former and inadequate workshops for the latter). The exceptions have tended to be a few well planned, usually very large, comprehensives.

I am not suggesting the scrapping of the entire comprehensive system and a return to its predecessor. I would suggest, however, that it might be worth while to consider at least experimenting with a system like those of France and (interestingly, from the social angle) Hungary and some of the other East European countries where the pupils are educated to a certain age in the same schools but are thereafter allowed to opt (with the advice of teachers and parents) between schools of, respectively, a more academic or a more technical and vocational bent.

Yours faithfully, V. C. C. SAUNDERS, 42 Templar Road, Oxford.

feel it has fumbled because it has not given value to these schools).

Given the Church's understanding of Creation and the fact that the Church of England is one of the largest owners of rural land, the Church might be expected to set an example in the use of the land and the employment of appropriate agricultural methods, including the welfare of agricultural livestock. It has an obligation to be heard to speak on environmental issues on behalf of all living creatures who have no power in the countryside.

Finally, though the list could be much longer, the countryside is the favourite holiday resort of thousands of the city-dwellers to which Mr Longley's article refers. The rural church has a vital ministry to visitors to rural areas, a ministry which it has only just begun to grasp.

Yours faithfully, IAN BECKWITH, Director, Centre for the Study of Rural Society, Bishop Grosseteste College, Lincoln.

No simple matter of identity

From Professor Tony Greenfield

Sir, There is no statutory requirement for any citizen of the United Kingdom to carry or to produce on demand, during normal movement, any form of identification. I am told that under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 1 may be required to produce some form of identification "which may be a passport or some other document that satisfies the security officer".

These words were quoted to me by a security officer at East Midlands airport, but they are the same as I have heard before from police and others. However, unless I am travelling abroad I don't carry a passport. Not everybody has a driving licence. What else is there that can be trusted as identification? Anything else can be false.

The problem arises particularly at some transfer points between Northern Ireland and the mainland, notably at Glasgow, Manchester and East Midlands airports. But why is identification demanded there and not at Heathrow, on the Liverpool or Stranraer ferries, or on the border between north and south?

If there is any value in having such checks, then all UK citizens should be issued with unforgeable identity cards. Otherwise the demands at Glasgow, Manchester and East Midlands are no better than a nuisance and should be stopped. On one occasion I had no identification at all and was told by the security man that I was foolish.

Worse still at those three places is the insistence by security staff that passengers, moving either way, should fill in a card with title, name, maiden name, first name, occupation, nationality, date and place of birth, employer, home address, place visited, address visited, purpose of visit, and date. Most of this is impertinent, useless and almost impossible to verify even if it were thought necessary.

The demands breed officiousness in security men and annoy passengers. They also increase costs. At East Midlands alone there are three men checking and collecting these cards, so perhaps 15 are employed to cover three shifts and weekends. How many more are employed uselessly and irritatingly throughout the country and at what cost?

Yours faithfully, TONY GREENFIELD, Department of Medical Statistics, The Queen's University of Belfast, Institute of Clinical Science, Grosvenor Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland, September 26.

Attitudes to Israel

From Mr Dennis Walters, MP for Westbury (Conservative)

Sir, Years ago any protest against Israeli policy or action was promptly denounced by British Zionists, who form the powerful Israeli lobby, as antisemitism. It was a disgraceful form of blackmail and its intention was to intimidate and thereby silence any criticism of Israel.

Those of us who were not prepared to submit to this sinister form of political pressure and continued to criticise Israeli policy whenever we thought it right to do so were under constant attack from the lobby.

Greenville Janner, in his letter today (September 26) about Mr Rauli Dahl's review of *God Chided*, revives the tactic. Mr Janner and his fellow Zionists, with a few honourable exceptions, remained lamentably silent as the armed forces of Israel launched their unprovoked attack on Lebanon, devastated that unhappy country, killing countless thousands of innocent civilians, and systematically laid to waste the capital city.

They even remained silent when a year ago at Sabra and Chatila General Sharon, the Israeli Minister of Defence, connived in the appalling massacre of Palestinian women and children.

The slavish support British Zionists have given Israel, however indefensible its conduct, has been shameful.

Greenville Janner's sanctimonious attack on Mr Dahl therefore makes particularly indigestible reading and by bandying about charges of antisemitism as a way of answering criticism makes an unwelcome return to argument by smear.

Yours faithfully, DENNIS WALTERS, House of Commons.

A Yorkshire plea

From Mr Peter Bryson

Sir, Now that the Government has grasped the GLC/metropolitan county nettle, can we revert to being Yorkshiremen?

Only an inept backroom boy in Whitehall could have invented Humberside; no one I know wanted it or to pay for it; borough after borough is changing its address back to East Yorkshire; and I have no doubt the good people of Lincolnshire feel the same.

Both sides of the Humber estuary could develop more effectively on their own by reference to their own culture and infrastructure; and we could give that damn bridge to the Ministry of Transport before it costs us any more. (The revenue doesn't even pay for its upkeep.) We can be born again!

Yours faithfully, PETER S. BRYSON, Winterset, Beech Hill Road, North Ferriby, North Humberside.

Taking the point

From Mr O. J. Makower

Sir, Some years ago, on the road to Clontarf, outside Dublin, a car-hire firm displayed the sign, "Funerals. Self-drive".

The point was not missed. Yours sincerely, O. J. MAKOWER, 71 Carlton Hill, NW8.



**The new Ford Orion.
A modern variation on
a classical theme.**

The Orion is a splendidly comfortable, classically styled little saloon. But with front wheel drive, a five-speed gearbox* and all Ford's latest electronic technology, its engineering is strictly contemporary.

The Orion is a brand new addition to the Ford line up. A compact five seater with four doors and a conventional boot, its styling is traditional.

But that's where tradition ends and 20th Century technology takes over.

For, as you're about to discover, the Orion is no throw-back to the past, but a thoroughly modern car - one which introduces new standards of comfort and refinement to its class.

The Orion is available as a GL, Ghia or Ghia with fuel injection. The latter is designed for the driver who likes his luxury combined with speed. (It will reach 116 mph and accelerate to 60 mph from rest in only 8.6 seconds†).

But let's look round the model that's most typical of the range: the Ghia.

Like much classical design it has a certain economy of line.

There is no unnecessary decoration. It doesn't need any. Its beauty is that everything is strictly functional. The bumpers, for instance, are made of light-weight polycarbonate which springs back into shape after minor knocks.

When you open the door, the first thing you notice is that air of calm that comes from cut pile carpet and tasteful cloth upholstery. You're back in civilisation.

The driver's seat, a new design, is generously padded and holds you firmly. It even has an adjustable support for the small of your back.

You'll find the latest equipment at your fingertips.

Power adjusted, heated mirrors, variable speed intermittent wipers and a multi-function digital clock are among the many standard features.

The dashboard bristles with switches and warning lights for everything from low windscreen washer fluid and oil levels to worn disc brake pads. So you seldom need to open the bonnet.

Then there's the ventilation system. This doesn't just keep you warm, it keeps you fresh too. Because it supplies cooler air to your face than your feet.

And such is the attention to sound deadening that even the holes that carry wiring from the engine compartment into the car are sealed against noise.

Here's another novel feature. The radio

aerial is built into the back window, which is bad news for vandals because there's nothing for them to break off. Signals are actually received by the heating elements in the glass.

A stereo radio cassette with four speakers and a 'joystick' balance control is standard. So are central locking, a sun roof which tilts or slides, electric front windows and tinted glass.

As for your passengers, we don't treat them like second class citizens. The front passenger's seat has an adjustable lumbar support just like the driver's. And one of the best features of the Orion is the way you can stretch out in the back. There is more leg room, knee room and head

in the back seat fold down. (They're split 60/40.) So if you have to carry something large and awkward, a double bass for instance, you can push it through. It's the next best thing to having a hatchback.

Now let's look under the bonnet.

You've a choice of engines, 1.3 or 1.6 litres in the GL and 1.6 or 1.6 with fuel injection in the Ghia.

These are the proven CVH engines, over a million of which are already on the road.

The engines are, of course, mounted transversely and drive the front wheels, which partly explains why there's so much space inside the

Orion in spite of its compact dimensions. It's the ideal layout for a car this size.

Among other engineering landmarks are tappets which adjust themselves and need no routine maintenance, electronic ignition that stays in tune for life, and a unique alloy cylinder head design featuring hemispherical combustion chambers.

The figures†† in the table speak for its efficiency.

Standard service intervals are 12,000 miles with only a minor service needed at 6,000.

You've also a choice of gearboxes. A 5-speed manual is optional with the 1.3 litre engine and standard with the 1.6 and 1.6i. While the automatic is an option with the 1.6. It's another engineering breakthrough, in that it features a mechanical by-pass which gradually takes over from the hydraulic drive as your speed rises.

This accounts for the remarkable fuel efficiency of even the automatic Orion††.

Suspension? Predictably it's all independent. As befits the character of the car we've tuned it for comfort. But, although this

means it's quite soft, there's very little body roll.

The 1.6i Ghia is set up rather more firmly with a rear anti-roll bar and gas-filled shock absorbers. So it handles more like the latest Escort XR3i.

You can see the new Ford Orion at your local Ford dealer now. We think you'll agree, it's a modern classic.

*Standard with 1.6 engines, optional with 1.3.

†Ford computed figures.

Car illustrated has optional metallic paint and rear seat belts.



Cut pile carpet and cloth upholstery: you're back in civilisation.



Over 54 mpg from a 1.6 litre 5-speed at 56 mph.



Comprehensive instrumentation and stratified ventilation system.



Hatches in back seat fold down to increase luggage capacity.



Five-speed gearbox standard on 1.6 and 1.6i models. Automatic an option on the 1.6.

room than in any car in its class. Not only that, but efficient use of space has enabled us to recline the back seat to a comfortable 27 degrees, so you can really sit back and enjoy the ride. It makes all the difference after an hour or two on the road.

Such thoughtful touches as an illuminated vanity mirror, delayed action courtesy lights and seat back map pockets are all standard in the Ghia. So are the rear seat head rests.

Luggage space? The Orion's boot, which incidentally has a remote control release, is huge (13.5 cu ft). Not only that, but two hatches

FORD ORION



British Institute of Management

The present upturn in the economy presents an opportunity and challenge for managements. We examine the unique role of the BIM in providing both the voice and support for the nation's managers.

It is an inconvenient but unavoidable fact that Britain boasts in the British Institute of Management the largest organization of its kind in the world, but suffers, and has suffered for over 30 years from a savage decline in industrial competitiveness and efficiency.

It is true too, that the BIM, which today has more than 70,000 members, has always been clear sighted in what it sought to achieve. Its annual report says it aims "to advance, by means of education, information and representation, the highest achievable levels... on managerial professionalism and practice within the United Kingdom," a message which has its roots quite firmly in the foundation of the institute in the early post war period. Then none other than Sir Stafford Cripps, a minister in the postwar Labour Government, pressed for the creation of an educational body, which would see that the lessons and experiences of wartime industry were not lost. It would see to it that the spirit of cooperation, teamwork and efficiency which characterized many wartime factories would be continued and extended in the post war period. It was created, in short, with high ideals and hopes.

One might expect, given the sad reality of Britain's industrial performance during the lifetime of the BIM, to find a defeated and demoralized organisation. But the BIM is flourishing, and its director general Mr Roy Close takes criticism of Britain's industrial performance in his stride. There are two things critics need to remember, he says. First, no one can tell how much worse this country's performance might have been if the BIM had not existed. Second, we have done better than we give ourselves credit for. The North Sea development was a triumph of advanced engineering and production; we still export proportionately more of our gross national product than our much vaunted competitors; we are excellent in low profile areas of the business, such as retailing,

distribution and services, we have successfully coped with major changes in the pattern of our trade and, in particular, we have switched from trading with the Commonwealth with its specific markets to trading with Europe, and its quite different market requirements.

All that is true, and convincing too when forcefully argued by Mr Close. But it is also true that, down the years the BIM has tended to be overshadowed by the Confederation of British Industry, and more recently the Institute of Directors. There exists in the public mind a feeling that it is somehow unnecessary, or even superfluous.

From its founding days until the mid 1970s this feeling was less marked if only because the BIM was then solely an educational organisation and, as such, was concerned solely with the needs of its members. But in the mid 1970s successive bouts of pay restraint and the social contract between the then Labour Government and the trade unions led to a major change of direction. Basically Britain's managers felt they were unappreciated. They were losing status.

Difficult path to tread

There was no doubt that a large slice of the membership was looking then for a B.U.M. - a British Union of Managers - but that is not what they got. What did happen was that the BIM, after various constitutional changes and much heart searching did set out to represent "the view of management" in Whitehall, to the civil service, government and opposition alike.

It has been a difficult path to tread for not only did the BIM have to establish that it represented a different constituency from the CBI - "they are employers, our members are employees" says Mr Close - but it also had to cope with the strident but seemingly effective



Roy Close, director general of the BIM: taking criticism in his stride

generation of publicity by the institute of Directors. The BIM in contrast, because its members cover every conceivable shade of political opinion has to move cautiously. All its submissions are put together only after extensive consultation with its nationwide network of branches. Perhaps as a result their sweet reasonableness, which delights their supporters, seems simply anodyne to the critics.

But after several years of struggle the BIM can now claim considerable success. It is now part of the regular consultative circuit of government, and as much as governments listen to anyone on industrial and economic matters they appear to respond to the dripping tap, the consistent pressure on carefully selected topics, which the BIM feels are within its province.

All this has its price however, and the combination of increased activity and high inflation has left the BIM facing a series of cash crises - not all together dissimilar from those

which seemed to afflict industry proper. The response has been twofold; first a successful drive to expand membership, and second the decision to move a substantial proportion of the services out of central London. Roughly a third of the BIM staff have transferred to Corby, Northants, and a further one-third are following. Head office will remain in London, but costs have been dramatically curtailed.

Improved viability has also led to increased vitality. In recent months the BIM has launched a series of initiatives to bring greater benefits from its core of expertise - the most notable being the launch of a computer bureau in partnership with PE International, and a joint venture with Professional Publishing Ltd, part of the Thompson Organization, which should lead to the commercial publication of much more of the BIM's in-house manuals, research and advice.

One difficulty is that it is difficult to know why people join an institute like the BIM.

True the British love institutes and a slice of the membership presumably wants nothing more when unemployment is high than to have the initials after their name. A further slice are undoubtedly attracted by the monthly magazine, *Management Today* produced for the BIM by Haymarket Publishing, and others by the forum the BIM provides through its regional branches to meet other managers and discuss specific management problems.

But the strengths and weaknesses of the BIM cannot realistically be separated from the society in which it operates. When society as a whole was against the pursuit of profit as the only goal for a manager then it was unrealistic for the BIM to try to pursue this line. But as attitudes change, and the need for a healthy and profitable industrial sector becomes more widely appreciated, then the BIM can press harder the cause of efficiency.

Anthony Hilton
City Editor

Pulling in the brighter pupils

One of the great problems faced by instructors in business management in Britain is that too many people do not take the subject seriously. While a child at school may legitimately aspire to become a member of the legal, medical or accountancy professions, and would probably be encouraged to do so by parents and teachers, he would receive no such support if he selected management as a career. It is clearly not a profession in the accepted sense - nor indeed should it pretend to be, for management is about performance, getting results and

fulfilling objectives: all things which are well down the list of professional priorities. But in consequence management education is invariably treated as either a "poor relation" or as an irrelevance - an attempt to put a veneer of respectability on to what is often still thought to be a down-to-earth trade best learnt on the job.

The British Institute of Management is trying, as part of a long-term project, to get schools to think differently about management, and to encourage more of the brighter pupils to choose it, rather than drift into it as a career. But this is a task which involves much educating of the educators and which is made only a little less daunting by the recent introduction of computer-based management games and competitions for sixth-formers.

But the bulk of management education takes place after the classroom has been left years behind, and it is here that the BIM has played its most significant role. Because education was the main reason for its creation, it is a natural corollary that today there is hardly any educational board or a specific training, such as a branch of engineering, almost invariably, unless they were exceptionally brilliant in their chosen discipline, finished up in management. But while they learnt a great deal about engineering they learnt, virtually nothing about management.

Now, however, curricula are being amended to include at least an awareness of management; it may not be entirely what the BIM would like to see in every instance, but it is certainly progress.

In the areas it can influence directly, it has also taken some notable initiatives, the most widely praised being the programme of boardroom seminars in which a few senior executives get together for intensive discussion of specific problems - often with civil servants or other senior "outsiders" in attendance. The results are of course confidential but participants in the programme speak highly of its value.

As a result of these and other initiatives, Mr Wilson is happy with the broad direction of management education, but is far from happy with its overall impact. He points out that there are still far too few managers who have received sufficient formal training, and hundreds of thousands of them who have received none at all. AH

Students now more aware

Lobbying is inevitably a slow process but Mr Wilson can point to some notable successes. One problem the BIM identified was that students pursuing a specific training, such as a branch of engineering, almost invariably, unless they were exceptionally brilliant in their chosen discipline, finished up in management. But while they learnt a great deal about engineering they learnt, virtually nothing about management.

Now, however, curricula are being amended to include at least an awareness of management; it may not be entirely what the BIM would like to see in every instance, but it is certainly progress.

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Managers among the best, and bravest

British middle managers today are among the best in the world. Better educated than their predecessors, they are also better equipped for the tasks ahead as a result of being "tempered" by the fires of recession.

This is the consensus view from a selection of the many distinguished captains of industry whose active involvement with the institute is one of the most impressive aspects of the BIM.

"Our best operation is run by an Englishman appointed by local management in Germany," says Sir Trevor Holdsworth, chairman of Guest Keen & Nettlefolds and vice-president of BIM. British managers not only have considerable innate ability but they have also had to learn flexibility, adds Sir Trevor, whose own favourite motto has become "True wisdom lies in the masterful administration of the unforeseen".

A shake-out of administration layers means that middle managers now have to be given much more freedom. In order to exercise this scope for action wisely, Sir Trevor's advice to all grades of management is to "remember that training needs to be continuous". "It is no good going to business school for a year and thinking, 'that's it'."

British managers have served their country well during the worst recession experienced recently, but no one is ever sufficiently prepared for change, believes Mr Lawrence Tindale, deputy chairman of Finance for Industry and chairman of BIM.

He feels that we probably still lag behind Japan and the United States in our managers' knowledge of new developments in technology and a lot of self-education is needed if they are to forge ahead.

"The modern generation of middle managers has learned

that, with an educated labour force and a sophisticated market, the true role of leadership is to do with articulate communication. It is not simply a matter of passing messages down to the shop floor," commented Mr Deryk Vander Weyer, who takes over the deputy chairmanship of British Telecom on October 1. "The older generation was rather authoritarian in the hierarchical sense and were not good communicators with either their customers or their labour force," he says.

Need for courage and personality

The most difficult thing to learn, he believes, relates to the implementation of decisions. "It is not usually very difficult to see the route you should go," he says. "The difficult thing is firstly to have the courage to implement a sound decision, and secondly to have the personality and character to persuade other people to go along with it."

The recessionary climate up to now has made it difficult for middle managers to be commercially innovative, says Mr Weyer, who is chairman of BIM's Board of Companions - an inner circle of senior business leaders.

"They have tended to get trapped between trade union demands on the one hand, and the desires of boards of directors to compromise for the sake of a quiet life on the other," Mr Weyer believes that managers may need to learn how to take risks in the entrepreneurial sense if they are to meet the challenge of the promised economic upturn successfully.

Mr Robert Horton, chairman and managing director of BP Chemicals, has some doubts as to whether the present gener-



Sir Austin Bide: management starts with the chargehand; above from the left: Sir Trevor Holdsworth, Lawrence Tindale, Deryk Vander Weyer and Roger Hurn.

ation of managers has sufficiently adapted to technological change. He points out that very few managers have been taught about new technology needed by companies at school or university. Like doctors, lawyers or other professionals, managers should make sure they regularly read relevant books and journals to keep ahead of new trends and developments, he believes.

Sir Austin Bide, the chairman of Glaxo who also became non-executive chairman of BL last year, also emphasises the need for greater professionalism in management. Sir Austin, who holds the BIM Gold Medal in recognition of outstanding achievements in the management of the Glaxo Group, believes that management starts with the chargehand. "The gifted amateur was very useful once, but life in business is now very complex, very specialized

and needs a professional approach," he says. He points out that busy executives who "have their hands full looking after the shop" will have little time to go on training courses. However, Sir Austin's advice to any middle manager would be to "get yourself absolutely prepared to do the thing properly - identify the most meaningful element of your particular job and keep in touch with it as closely as you can".

Mr Roger Hurn, chief executive and managing director of Smith Industries, believes that managers have become "not only tougher and leaner but they have shown quite exceptional dedication during periods of great difficulty". But an economic upturn would require a switch of attitude, away from constantly seeking cost savings.

Patricia Tisdall

The British Institute of Management's Information and Advisory Service provides its 70,000 members with one of its original and most important functions - education on management techniques. The library, as the BIM's service is known, inherited a collection of work on management from the Institute of Industrial Information which had been set up at the turn of the century. Sir Clive Baillieu headed the Board of Trade committee which established the new institute and its library in 1947. The library boasts the oldest collection of management literature in the country and probably in the English-speaking world outside the United States.

The library still serves the first tenets of the BIM, to develop management as an art and a science, to improve training of managers, and make research and publications easily

available.

The library prides itself on its early insistence that management was to be regarded as an art, and not just an adjunct to business and commerce - and the subsequent developments have reinforced that it was right. Although the literature was weighted towards manufacturing and industry in its first years, the development of new technology and the widening of the BIM's membership has been reflected in the library's contents.

Now the retailing and service industries, including hotel and catering, food, drink and tobacco, are represented as well as paper, printing and publishing, local government, education and the public utilities. Members also include the education profession, trade unions and government departments and the traditional industries and large companies.

Education is a new focus of management principles, the growth of comprehensive schools have brought headmasters and headmistresses into the BIM to study new ways of organizing and managing people. As the BIM points out: "Change and the rate of change are concepts with which every manager has had to become conversant over the last decade. Managers are being told from all sides that the environment in which they live is changing so drastically and so rapidly that those who were educated 20 years ago or more, unless they have taken deliberate steps to keep abreast of developments, may well be out of touch with the ideas and technology of the present day."

The needs of BIM members fall into seven main areas. The first is advice on corporate structure and control methods. Relocation, commercial law and taxation, consumer credit protection law and company legislation are all covered. Boardroom decisions and the role of directors are also issues which come up frequently. One

pollution and energy conservation. Although the information service cannot provide training on all these issues it can identify where an individual or company can seek training or further advice. In the main research is free, although if a project involves many hours' work a small contribution is required to help defray costs.

More than half the queries answered by the library are on the management of people. Members ask for advice on methods of interviewing, recruiting and selecting staff and the development of skills within an organization. Communication with employees is also an important issue, while other members need help on incentive schemes and training opportunities.

Advice on financial management is often requested, particularly for organizations where the managers are not financially trained. In addition there is a growing feeling that elaborate management information systems established in

Not just a business, more an art

the 1970s are not providing critical information at the right time and members are looking for simple, early indicators, particularly on cash flow. On the operational side, another perennial problem is stock control and the links between manufacturing research and distribution.

Sales and marketing policies come under constant scrutiny. The information centre can often point to existing research which can be bought at a reasonable cost and save groups from commissioning expensive surveys of their own. The library also maintains a large stock of information on the development of personal skills, management education and training schemes which is probably second to none.

The library maintains that its greatest strength is its collection of unpublished material, mainly examples of management practice. About half the collection consists of 80,000 unpublished or semi-published works on themes ranging from performance appraisal, trading terms, policy manuals, procedures and case histories. Although the librarians hold management qualifications, they do not offer solutions to management problems. They give advice on how to find the right person, such as a lawyer, to give the correct answer.

The greatest use of the library is made by the BIM's 9,000 collective subscribers who may send any member of staff to use the services.

The BIM offers case studies in employee relations to members. In the last few years an increasing number of enquiries have been received on redundancy or threatened unemployment as well as sick leave and advice on company perks and relocation. For a more individual approach members are directed to the BIM's Careers Information Service, set up in 1981, which has been well used during the recession as managers consider new careers or setting up in business on their own. Counsellors are available for interviews for which there is a small charge and the BIM is increasingly offering young people in schools and colleges help on making a career decision.

Rosemary Unsworth

Bring in the workers

Has the recession meant the end of the concept that employees should influence company decisions? Optimistic industrial relations observers maintain that one of the benefits of the boom-again managers of the 1980s is that greater self-confidence has made managers more receptive to advice. The pessimists' view is that industrial democracy is a lost cause for the time being, and that factory closures and general fear of unemployment has brought back an unacceptable level of

autocratic control. Greater employee participation was identified as a key issue for management in the mid-1970s. It was regarded then as "requirement, complementary to the increased commercial, technical and social skills needed for managing in the 1980s". The background to debates which led to the Bullock Commission report and the 1977 White Paper was not whether greater employee participation was desirable, but how best and how quickly it could be achieved. The chief objection raised by managers and employers to both the commission's report and the White Paper was not that there should be no extension of employee participation, but that it should be on a voluntary basis.

Since then the BIM has made continuous efforts to persuade its members that effective employee participation is in the interests of efficiency as well as the quality of life of the employees. Several reports have been produced "A management view", "The way ahead", "Participation, democracy and control", together with a code of practice, a management checklist and surveys on related subjects such as disclosure of information and profit-sharing.

Mr Roy Close, the BIM director-general, says "When I speak, I continually emphasize that this is something they must get on with".

A survey of subscriber companies with more than 1,000 employees carried out by the BIM in 1981 showed that nearly every respondent claimed to accept at least the concept of employee participation, so obviously the institute's efforts over the years have borne some fruit. Only five out of the 166 respondents saw no benefit at all. Another five saw theoretical benefits but believed they could not be put into practice. The remainder - some 96 per cent - saw substantial benefits in participation, if successfully managed, concerned mainly with improving industrial relations and corporate responsibility.

The BIM also asked companies to indicate the degree of participation which had actually been applied in their organization such as joint decision-making, negotiation of decisions and consultation. Significantly, only 22 per cent identified joint decision-making as a method of participation. Moreover, fully half of these qualified their agreement with such words as "rarely", "very occasionally" or "where appropriate". Cross-analysis of the survey findings, the researchers concluded, "suggests that where joint decision-making takes place at company level, it appears to relate to pension schemes". At plant or division level, it appears to suggest involvement in work systems through briefing meetings. It was not interpreted by any respondent as board-level participation.

In terms of subject matter, companies were prepared to

impart information about the state of the order books and company objectives. However, the survey showed, they were most reluctant to give information about research, mergers or manpower projections.

Provision for financial participation by employees was also found to be comparatively limited. Only 56 per cent of the companies responding to the BIM survey had such schemes or planned to have them, and of these 3 per cent specified that their schemes were for senior executives only.

The main obstacles to further progress on worker participation were identified as apathy among employees and unwillingness to share authority on the part of management. In addition, a majority of respondents identified unwillingness by unions to allow non-union employees either to be represented at all, or on the same council or committee as trade unionists.

Developments in employee participation have been considerably slower than the more advanced reformers of the mid 1970s would have wished. The change of government in 1979 led to the immediate abandonment of the proposed legislation proposed by the Bullock Commission. But legislation in some form is still considered to be a strong possibility. A clause on employee involvement has already been included in the 1982 Employment Act. This requires companies with 250 employees or more to describe in their annual reports actions taken to introduce or develop information-sharing, regular consultation, employee share-schemes, and "common awareness".

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Finding out with the high-fliers

In a series of residential seminars intended to help "Tomorrow's Leaders" launched this year, Dr. John Nicholls, director of management development at the B.I.M., has applied the old principle that leadership is best taught by example. The aim is to bring together a group of managers and a handful of captains of industry. A diet of intellectual sparring, added by "shadowing" each chief executive with an academic expert to provide both an introduction and a framework for particular topics.

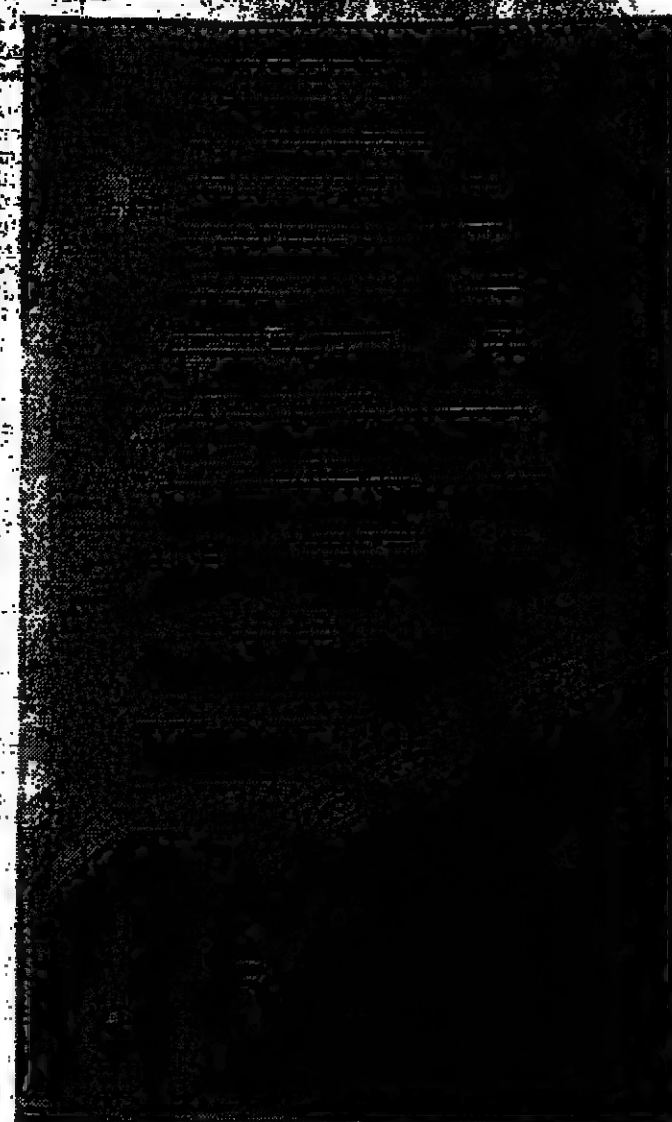
Describing the idea, Dr. Nicholls emphasizes the necessity to attract the highest calibre of both business leaders and participants to these events. "The seminars are designed for up to 25 participants who have a significant record of achievement", he says. "They will probably be 40 to 50 years old, already directors of substantial companies or heads of divisions in the top 1,000, and clearly destined for even higher things." Participation is confined to suitably qualified executives who have been specially nominated by "Companions of the Institute" - an inner circle of senior industrialists whose own achievements have been recognized by their peers.

With an eye to the Institute's balance sheet, there is a charge of £1,500, which Dr. Nicholls admits is more expensive than any course run previously by B.I.M. The fee, however, covers full accommodation for the week as well as tuition.

The key to the success of the idea lies with the choice of chief executive leaders and their willingness to co-operate. The "cast" for the first seminar, held at Nuneham Park, near Oxford in March could hardly have been more star-studded. It included Sir Michael Edwards, Mr. Ian MacGregor, Sir Adrian Cadbury, Sir Michael (now chairman of Mercury Communications and who takes over as executive chairman of ICL next year) described his experiences at British Leyland; Mr. Ian MacGregor (now chairman of the National Coal Board) read a paper about taking over a heritage of over-capacity and de-industrialization in a nationalized steel industry; Sir Adrian spoke on human relations in industry; and Mr. Robert Horton, managing director of BP Chemicals, talked about the problems of British companies in a global context.

Once they had delivered their prepared papers, the industrialists, who had been chosen to illustrate successful management in a variety of conditions, took questions from the floor.

"A remarkably candid exposure" was how one delegate, whose company prefers to keep a very low public profile described the replies he received. "Although



(Left) B.I.M.'s Management House in central London. Two-thirds of the staff are transferring to offices at Corby, Northants (above).



Star-studded cast: Sir Michael Edwards, Ian MacGregor, Sir Adrian Cadbury and Robert Horton

it is impossible to say whether or not I have been more directive as a result, it gave me the feeling that I have a better understanding of certain types of problems", he said.

Inspired with confidence

Mr. Simon Davidson, controller for Africa, Middle East and West Europe for the Glaxo group, summed up the views of many of his fellow delegates when he said that the exchange "reinforced and amplified" his thoughts about various aspects of management, such as the necessity for senior executives to keep in touch with customers or to "give managers room to make decisions".

Mr. Neville Simms, director of Tacoma Construction, said it was "very confidence-boosting to see that leaders of this calibre were only men like the rest of us. They put across some very clear ideas which struck chords with us."

people in the audience. It gave me confidence in cases where one was not quite sure whether or not to strike out in a particular direction."

"One always has mixed feelings about courses of this type unless they are part of a structured management development programme", Mr. Denis Long, assistant general manager of the Midland Bank said. "However, I found it to be a tremendous experience. It is obviously important to any type of manager, some of whom are in the front line of crisis management."

As in most external management development courses those who took in the Nuneham Park seminar felt they had gained considerably from being able to exchange experiences with each other. Dr. Nicholls, who co-ordinated the course, believes that the overall calibre of the delegates was close to the original specification. They included managers from public authorities such as

North Thames Gas, the National Coal Board, British Rail, British Telecom, and representatives of a variety of industrial and commercial concerns. There were a number of job titles - including an assistant chief constable as well as managers, directors and managing directors.

The exchange of views was not confined to topics raised from the platform; delegates explained how they were tackling various aspects of their jobs. As Mr. John Taylorson, head of catering services for British Airways, pointed out - such exchanges were useful in assessing how one "structures one's own responsibility".

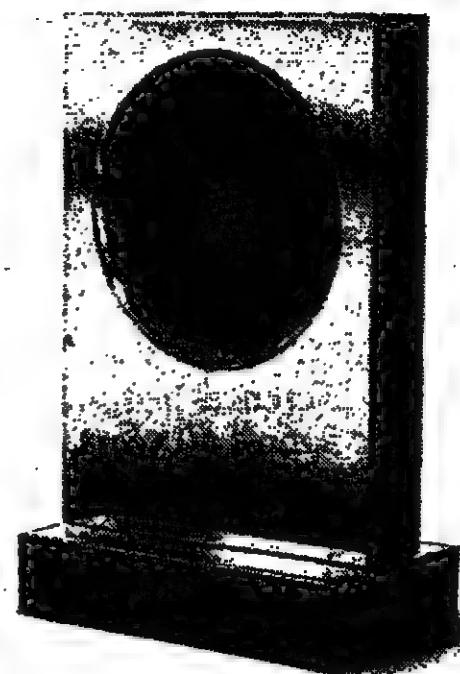
Mr. Taylorson felt that the small numbers and comparatively relaxed atmosphere enabled him to get a "much clearer understanding of personalities and their different style of meeting objectives than could be obtained by other ways."

There were, of course many criticisms. Most people felt that

although the idea of "shadowing" key speakers with academics was good, in practice it did not always work. Some of the papers were felt to be too wordy and too far from the point. A rather physical management game was thought to be distracting and obtrusive. The criticisms however were felt to be minor. The general feeling, even six months after the event, was one of excitement.

The first of the "Tomorrow's Leaders" seminars obviously got the series, which are intended to run twice a year off to a good start. Dr. Nicholls reports that a "very satisfactory" number of applications had been received for the second seminar, to be held at Henington Grey, Cambridge, in November. It will deal with strategies needed to bring various aspects of technology into the management structure. Once again notable chief executives and academics will meet a group of about 25 hand-picked delegates.

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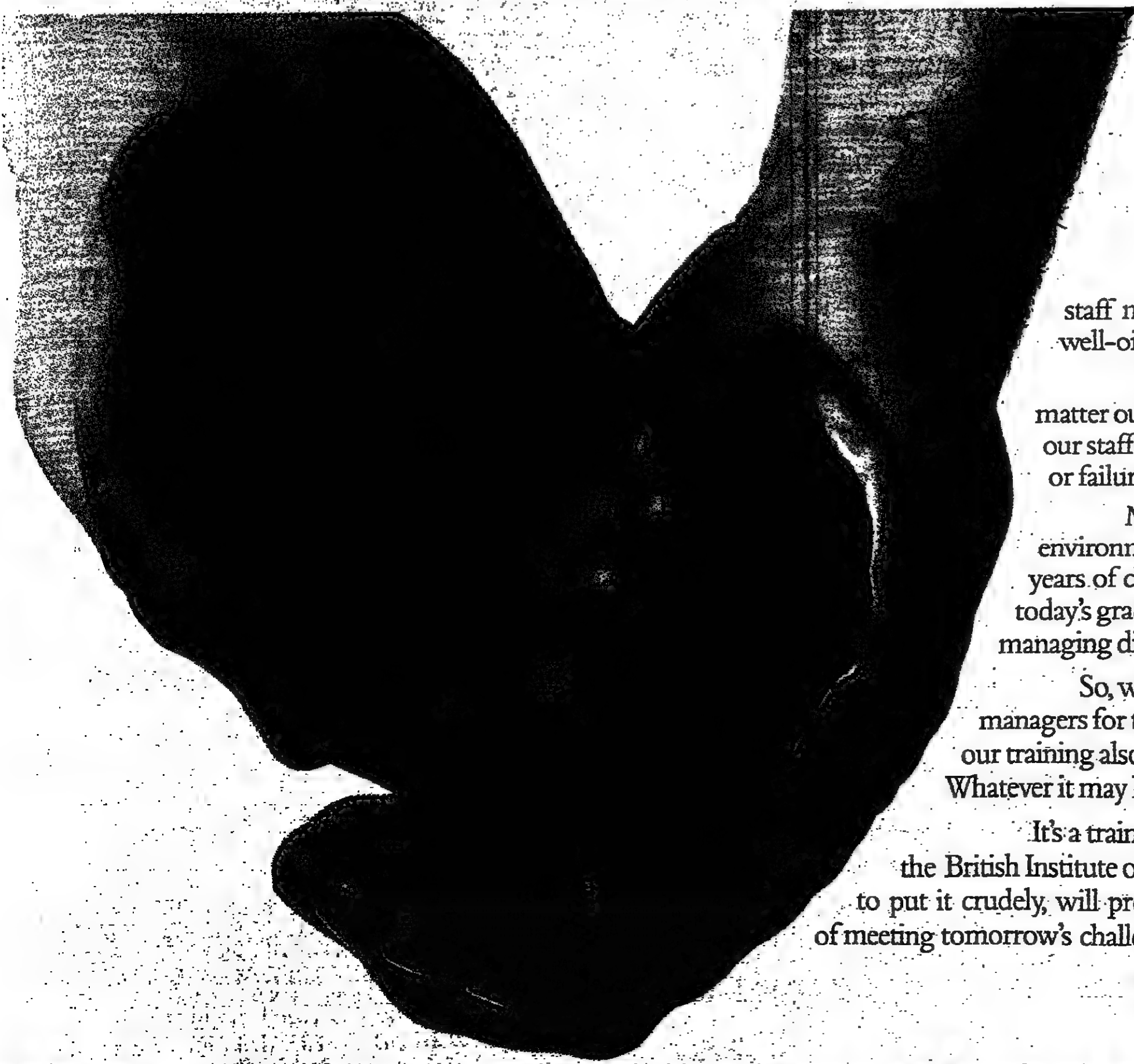
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Going back to school with the chairman

"I couldn't face looking silly in front of my junior colleagues," was the reason given by one participant. "I got fed up with not knowing what my son was talking about," said another. "I didn't tell anybody what I was doing, not even my secretary," commented a third. These remarks were made by managers on one of the British Institute of Management's courses to teach beginners about computers.

As we filed into the classroom we saw that it was edged by banks of micro-screens. Most of the participants were aged 45 and above, and were all pretty senior people, no regular course-goers. Around half the class of between 30 and 40 were of director rank or above; nine were chairmen, presidents, managing directors or senior partners. Their sponsoring organizations were not small either. They included household names like Letraset, Kodak, Johnson & Johnson, H. J. Heinz and the Abbey National Building Society, as well as a sprinkling of public bodies like the Ministry of Defence, a church diocese and the National Coal Board.

Making friends with micro

Well over 4,000 such managers have been through the BIM computer course - called "making friends with the Micro" - since it started in March 1979. To take the intensive two-day sessions the current price for BIM members is £235 (plus VAT), £350 (plus VAT) for non-members which covers tuition, equipment and materials, morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea.

As well as promising to "cut through the jargon and remove the mystique", the literature says that half the time will be spent in "hands-on" activity. Sure enough, after a brief introduction we were divided into syndicates of three and sat in front of our terminals. It was immediately apparent that a high proportion of people there had never touched a keyboard of any sort before - although

one admitted to having had half-an-hour's tuition from his secretary on her word processor. Once the initial strong reluctance to handle the keys was overcome, however, progress was rapid.

By lunch time everyone in the class had mastered the elementary commands. We had also, to our immense satisfaction, written our first simple seven-line programme which, with a single calculation, would show the time required to travel any distance at any speed per hour. After lunch we learnt about more sophisticated manoeuvres such as the "unconditional loop", "counters" and "accumulators".

We also tackled more complicated programs, involving the calculation of compound interest after investment for various periods at various rates. We saw how a query about equal pay could be answered with facts through a program which would sift male entries on the payroll from the female entries and create an average at the touch of a button.

By now, almost for the first time, we were beginning to appreciate the immense potential value of the computer as a management tool. We could see how it could produce rapid answers to all sorts of "what if" questions such as - what would happen to costs all along the line if sales increased?

Equally, we were beginning to suffer from the machine's limitations. The most exasperating were the syntax errors which could be caused by the slightest keyboard slip such as incorrect spacing. Often this meant having to type in the instruction again from the beginning. As the programs became longer - 40 or 100 lines -

Close tuition on VDU's at the British Institute of Management 'school'

this became increasingly irksome. A lot of the managers found that although they had little difficulty in creating the programs they had to struggle to input them into the machine. The indications were that most would not persevere with doing this personally and would leave it to an operator if a screen were installed in their office.

The course ended with a very full résumé and demonstration of all the main microcomputers on the market, with a discussion of their advantages and disadvantages. Also extensively discussed were the merits or otherwise of packaged software.

The result seemed to give a thorough and practical grounding in elementary computer technology, a route through the minefield of jargon and equipment. Experienced help was available at every part of the learning process. The machines were installed and switched on, ready for use. In a class full of strangers there were no inhibitions about asking for assistance with elementary problems.

From the review forms completed at the end of the course it could be seen that everyone felt they had learnt something of value. But perhaps the most pervasive feeling was the immense self-satisfaction of winning at least a nodding acquaintance with a computer.

Advance course for managers

A sequel is provided for managers who want a more advanced course. This is "Modelling on the Micro", designed for managers, accountants, corporate planners, consultants and others who are thinking of acquiring a computer modelling system. It illustrates how computers can help with business planning and describes the various types available on the market.

The two computer workshops are among a list of over 20 short one and two-day courses currently on offer from BIM. These range from "appraisal interviewing", intended for "all line managers and personnel specialists who wish to improve the effectiveness of their Appraisal interviewing", to "Train the Trainer", a "highly practical approach covering both the fundamentals of learning and an introduction to the most up-to-date training techniques".

The courses are run by a selection of external instructors.

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Bargains: 21.024
Datastream USM Leaders
Index: 94.41 up 0.33
New York Dow Jones
Average: 1242.48 up 0.51
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones
Index: 9,432.61
Hongkong Hang Seng
Index: 757.35 down 0.55
Amsterdam: 152.3 down 0.8
Sydney: AO Index: 721.6 up 5.5
Frankfurt Commerzbank
Index: 941.20 down 0.10
Brussels: General Index
131.55 down 0.23
Paris: CAC Index: 139.3 up 0.11
Zurich: SKA General: 285.0 down 0.1

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9.930 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$409.50 pm \$408.75
close \$409.50 \$272.50
New York latest: \$41.00
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$421.50-423 (221-222)
Sovereigns (new):
\$96.50-97.50 (\$64.25-65)
*Excludes VAT

TODAY

Interims. Arbutnot Dollar
Income Trust, Charles Hurst,
Macallen-Glenlivet (amended),
Midland Industries, Southampton,
Isle of Wight and South of
England, Royal Mail, Steam
Packet, Stylo, Tootal Group,
Finals: Bermuda International
Bond Fund, Cocksedge (Hold-
ings), Fitzwilliam.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

F. Copeston, Penns Hall Hotel,
Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, W.
Midlands (3.30).
Country Gentlemen's Associ-
ation, Icknield Way, West
Leitchworth, Herts (12.15).
Andre De Bret, Great Eastern
Hotel, Liverpool Street, EC2
(noon).
F. F. Dyson, Cutlers' Hall,
Sheffield (noon).
Inter-City Investment Group,
Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool
Street, EC2 (10.30).
Isis Industries Services, 27/28
Lovat Lane, EC3 (noon).
Property Security Investment
Trust, Founders Hall, 13 St
Swirling's Lane, EC4 (12.15).
David S. Smith (Holdings),
Kingsley Hotel, Bloomsbury
Way, WC1 (noon).
Stavert Zigmala, Harvester
House, 37 Peter Street, Man-
chester (noon).
Joseph Webb, Station Hotel,
Dudley, W. Midlands (noon).
Wright, Collins, Rutherford,
Scott, 41-44 Great Queen
Street, WC2 (12.00).

● The organizers of the
£105.5m management buy-out
of Richard Shops and John
Collier from Hanson Trust were
adamant yesterday that the deal
had not fallen through. But a
promised statement had not
materialized early yesterday
evening amid growing specu-
lation that the institutions had
failed to put up the cash.
● Mr Phil Harris, the chair-
man of Harris Queensway,
yesterday promised that his
carpet retailing empire would
see profits continue to grow for
at least the next 18 months. The
group yesterday reported almost
doubled half year profits of
£9.3m against £4.99m.

Market report, p.18

Bank doubts Lawson's claim that economic recovery will last

By Peter Wilson-Smith and Edward Townsend

The Bank of England remains unconvinced about the durability of the economic recovery, in contrast to the optimistic note struck by Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, in Washington this week.

In its September Quarterly Bulletin, the Bank highlights the dominant role played by the high level of consumer spending in driving the economy out of recession. But it says that the recovery, "if it is to last, must be broad-based".

Speaking at the IMF meeting this week, Mr Lawson, former chief of the Bank, said the recovery would spread more widely and move into a second phase of increased capital investment.

Although the Bank's latest analysis does not preclude this, it appears unconvinced about the likelihood of it happening. The Bulletin lays out the possibility of a non-inflationary recovery if confidence that output will grow more strongly encourages companies to

keep prices down, in turn stimulating more demand and eventually helping with the problem of unemployment.

"In some degree, this process is already visible," the Bank says, but it presents the picture more as a possibility than a probability.

Meanwhile industry leaders said yesterday that Britain's fragile economic recovery could be reversed by high wage deals. They struck trade union demands for a 5% a year working week and once again issued a strong call for lower productivity.

In a business policy document submitted to yesterday's meeting of the National Economic Development Council, Sir Terence Beckett, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, said: "There will be no new jobs for Britain's three million unemployed until industry and commerce can get a competitive edge in world markets."

In the last 10 years, pay had risen by 31% per cent while productivity had increased by only 15 per cent, he said.

Recent improvements in productivity had made up some lost ground, but the country was on average still 20 per cent less competitive compared with the rest of Europe and Japan.

"We need to continue to bring pay settlements down and, given our weak competitive position, there is no scope for any reductions in hours and holidays without an offsetting reduction in pay."

The CBI paper comes after last month's NEDC debate about unemployment at which Mr Lawson promised a new Government initiative to identify the sectors where the new jobs would come from when the economic revival was in full swing.

Sir Terence and Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said they would present documents and a full Treasury statement is expected in the late autumn.

Sir Terence told his NEDC colleagues yesterday: "We are at what could be a turning point for Britain. There are signs of recovery."

"Previously, as bargaining pressures developed, we allowed earnings to rise, out of all proportion to the gain in productivity. With profits still at such low levels and with more than three million people unemployed, we cannot afford to let it happen again."

The Bank of England Bulletin says that all measures now show that growth in the last two years has been faster than previously thought and although it expects inflation to rise it is fairly optimistic about prices.

It says the main potential threat now comes from external factors such as higher commodity prices but "the present recovery in the economy is moderate, with levels of stock so large that it may be expected that downward pressure on wage and price increases will persist."

The Bulletin hints at disquiet about the high degree to which consumer spending - up 4.25 per cent in the past year adding 3 per cent to gross domestic product - has been financed on credit.

City Editor's Comment

Credibility and a base rate cut

For some time now, the proximate aim of the Government's economic policy has been to cut interest rates. Yet the Bank of England is stoutly brushing aside attempts by the money market - theoretically supposed to lead on such matters - for a further cut in bank base rates.

Meanwhile in Washington, both Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, and now Mrs Thatcher have gone out of their way to lambast the United States administration over the effect of its high budget deficit on world interest rates.

Since the British team knows that neither President Reagan nor the United States Congress is likely to pay much attention before their respective elections, this can only be interpreted as establishing an alibi for lack of progress at home.

The Bank of England's attitude is understandable. To start with, informal house wisdom is that base rates cannot be expected to fall much, if at all, below 9 per cent this year. Moreover, as today's Bank of England Quarterly Bulletin makes clear between the lines, the Bank feels defensive about events in the summer.

According to the Bulletin, it allowed market pressure to cut base rates immediately after the election somewhat against its better judgment. Money supply was above target, but the cut could be justified by a sideways look at the foreign exchange.

No sooner had rates fallen than the roof followed, with money supply, bank and building society lending, and United States interest rates all questioning Britain's Quixotic cut.

Since then, the short-term climate has improved considerably. At home, the Bank has been selling plenty of gilt-edged stock to the market, to keep money supply down, while bank lending has likewise confounded the pessimists.

September figures may finally bring money supply back to the top of the 7-11 per cent target range for EM3, by no means a signal for an interest rate cut, but at least an excuse to allow a

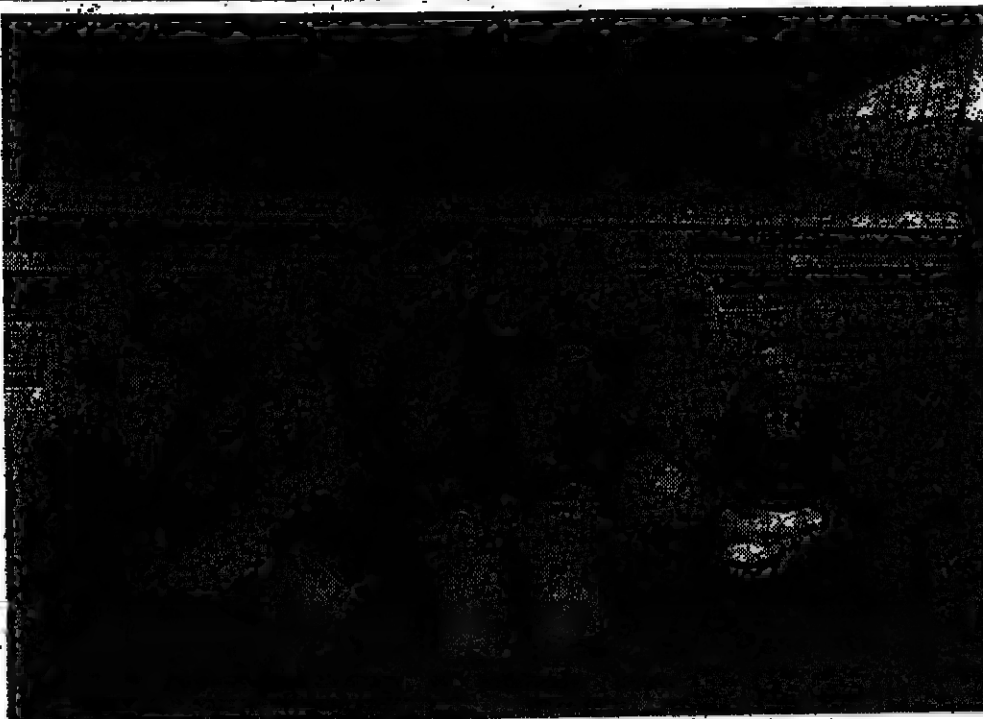
cut without again denting the credibility of domestic monetary policy.

The failure of the latest government gilt-edged issue to attract buyers should, in this context, be seen as a consequence of the failure to cut interest rates rather than an indication for future action.

In the United States, weekly M1 figures have been lower than expected for several weeks in succession and the Federal Reserve Board's open market committee is expected to confirm a consequential mild easing of monetary policy next week.

With British money figures also passing through Bank hands then, the stage is set for a cut in base rates from 9% per cent to 9 per cent towards the end of next week.

This will be nicely timed to subvert any criticism on interest rates at the forthcoming Conservative Party conference and, given previous budget and party conference coincidences would justly be received with some scepticism.



Spurs chairman Alexon (third from left) with fellow directors, players and Mr Jon Sachs of Sheppards & Chase, stockbroker (far right). Photograph: David Cairns.

Tottenham goes for its market spurs

By Michael Clark

Tottenham Hotspur Football Club will give its fans details of its plans to become Britain's first publicly quoted football team when they gather for the match against Nottingham Forest on Sunday.

Mr Douglas Alexon, Spurs chairman, will wrap his plan in a suit for a programme seller's white coat to help draw out prospectuses to the 30,000 odd spectators expected for the fixture.

For the flotation the club has formed a holding company with ultimate control over the club and players headed by Mr Paul Bohoroff, who is also chairman of Harborth Securities, a quoted property company. The new holding company is offering for sale 3.8 million shares in the

company at 190p, valuing the club at £72m.

Earlier this year club debts stood at £4.5m after completion of its west stand, including reception rooms, offices and executive boxes.

The club partly reduced its borrowing by announcing a rights issue to raise £1.5m, which was underwritten by the Spurs board.

Now the club hopes to wipe out the remainder of its debts with estimated proceeds of £3.3m from the offer for sale.

The cost of the new stand left the group with a loss of £449,000 compared with a pretax profit the previous year of £188,000. The club's best performance was in 1981 when

it made a profit of £566,000 helped by an extended cup run.

The group is forecasting pretax profits of £850,000 for the current year but this is a conservative figure and assumes the club is knocked out of all its cup commitments in the first round.

Assets have been valued at £6.8m, or 74p a share, but this does not include the true value of the 11-acre training ground at Chesham, Hertfordshire, thought to be worth £3m. The club is looking for a bigger training ground and will eventually apply or planning permission to develop Chesham.

The team is insured for about £4.5m, although the club is not allowed to write off new players on the book.

Jardine chief goes as profits slump

By Philip Robinson

Jardine Matheson, the Hong Kong trading company, yesterday announced the immediate departure of Mr David Newbigging, its chairman, as half-time profits dropped 65 per cent and Hong Kong Land, an associate company, went into loss.

Earlier this year Mr Newbigging agreed to leave after next year's annual meeting. The Newbigging family, descendants of the founder of Jardine, had fought for three years to dislodge him.

Mr Simon Keswick, aged 41, senior managing director, takes over from Mr Newbigging as chairman of Jardine and Hong Kong Land.

Mr Newbigging said a new executive management team for Hong Kong Land is now in place and the recently appointed operating officer of Hong Kong Land, Mr David Davies, would take over in October. He was formerly chairman of the British property group MEPC.

Mr Newbigging said in his final statement as chairman that uncertainty over the extent of the world recovery, doubt over the future of Hong Kong and its currency, and the performance of the Hong Kong Land company made it difficult to forecast prospects for Jardine. Full-year indications, he said were "not encouraging".

Hong Kong Land made a HK\$100m (25m) loss in its first half year mainly because of a HK\$429.6m provision against

projects in Hong Kong, Australia and Singapore.

Mr Newbigging added that the Hong Kong property market was likely to remain over-supplied for at least two years and he said he doubted there would be any material contribution in the foreseeable future from the company's property projects, particularly those in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong Land yesterday signed a HK\$250m loan facility to be underwritten by a syndicate of five institutions.

For the six months to the end of last June, Jardine's pretax profits dropped from HK\$578m to HK\$398m on a turnover up from HK\$4.8bn to HK\$5.2bn. In the 12 months to the end of last December its pretax figure was HK\$1.2bn.

London analysts were saying last night that the results were hit by the performance of Hong Kong Land.

The performance took the steam out of the Hong Kong stock market. The Hang Seng index, which had managed to recoup 6 points of its earlier losses, closed 9.65 points down on the day at 767.35.

Brokers continue to suggest that the stock market is following closely the value of the Hong Kong dollar. Against sterling, it gained 30 cents to HK\$12.40 yesterday.

Jardine's price dropped 75 cents to 955 cents and Hong Kong Land dropped 25 cents to 250 cents.

Thatcher plea over US deficit

From Frances Williams and Bailey Morris, Washington

Mrs Thatcher, expressing concern that the spiralling US budget deficit could destroy world recovery, said yesterday she intended to urge President Reagan to reconsider his decision not to raise revenues through tax increases.

In a televised interview before meetings with Mr Reagan and US cabinet officials, the Prime Minister disagreed with the administration's contention that high budget deficits do not lead to high interest rates.

"We are anxious to try and persuade the United States to take steps to reduce that deficit," she said, in making a link between the continuing rise in US interest rates and the huge budget deficit currently projected at \$210 billion for the 1984 financial year.

Mrs Thatcher intended to express not only Britain's continuing concerns over the deficit but also the worries of other European nations anxious about the duration of the US recovery.

"I think it is very harmful when coming out of a recession to have a high interest rate. It stops expansion on the part of the very people you want to encourage, the small businesses and construction companies who would like to expand."

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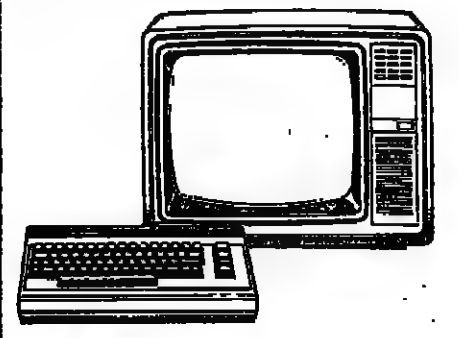
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T50/8

JAL and Eastern reject A300 Double blow for Airbus hopes

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Airbus Industrie, the European aircraft consortium, yesterday received body blows from opposite ends of the Earth that could severely damage its plan to launch a 150-seater jet in the next few years.

The influential Japanese Airlines (JAL) announced that it was buying nine wide-bodied Boeing 767 aircraft, worth about \$460m (£399m), for delivery from 1986, with options on a further six, rather than the Airbus A300 or A310 models. The latter are both fitted with high-technology wings built by British Aerospace.

At the same time, American Eastern Airlines revealed that it had decided not to take delivery of the last four A300 Airbuses

on which it had options because of its own financial problems. Reports from Paris, the headquarters of Airbus, indicate that the consortium, in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake, will have 22 aircraft without buyers by the end of the year.

Airbus's chief partners, the British, French and West German aerospace industries, are trying to win government support - and huge sums of public funds - for the A320, the 130-seater aircraft which Airbus is still confident will be in demand by the end of the decade.

The JAL decision, which follows British Airways' recent deal to lease Boeings rather than commit itself to the Airbus

A320, is a particularly serious setback for the consortium. It follows months of fierce competition between the airliner market rivals and, on a broader front, will do little to reduce the trade friction between Japan and the European Community.

In March, the Airbus chief executive, M Bernard Lathiere, visited Japan to promote the A310 and demonstration flights took place just a few days after a visit by Boeing executives.

The American company appears to have used all its financial muscle to secure the order. It also has the advantage of having JAL as a customer for 18 years, the airline now operating 43 Boeing 747 jets, the largest Jumbo fleet in the world.

Takeover Panel head is named

By Our Financial Staff

The new director-general of the Takeover Panel and the Council for the Securities Industry will be Mr Tim Barker of Kleinwort, Benson.

Mr Barker, a senior executive in the bank's corporate finance department takes over on January 1, 1984. He replaces Mr John Hignett, who has been in the job for two-and-a-half-years and took on the new post of director-general of the CSI.

Combining the two jobs was the beginning of a push to establish the CSI as the ultimate self regulatory watchdog of the City. The CSI is expected to announce the formation of a new committee to act as the discussion forum on Stock Exchange reforms.

WALL STREET

Motors 74%, up 1/4; General Electric 52%, off 1/4; Bristol Myers 42%, off 1/4; General Mills 47%, down 1/4; Pillsbury 72%, up 1/4; Merrill Lynch 33%, up 1; Monsanto 110%, down 1/4; Boeing 38%, up 1/4; Northern Telecom 45%, down 2; Whitehall Corp was off 1 1/4; 33%; Gap Stores down 2 at 27;

Torin Douglas reports on the need for more competition in the professions

The case for lifting restrictions on solicitors' advertising

Last month, the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, which represents agencies in Britain, launched a campaign to persuade the Law Society to relax its ban on advertising by solicitors. The IPA claims that this hinders competition and efficiency and prevents the public being given adequate information about the services offered by individual solicitors.

Such arguments are only to be expected from a body representing agencies. But what adds strength to the IPA's case is that similar recommendations have been made by the Office of Fair Trading, two reports of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the Royal Commission on Legal Services and the Consumers' Association.

Next month, at the Law Society's conference in Paris, the Consumers' Association's legal adviser, Mr David Tenn, will argue that solicitors should be allowed to advertise on the grounds that this will give better information to the public and will open up the legal services to healthy competition. "By stimulating competition, prices should come down," he says.

"The only thing worse than misleading advertising is a prohibition on advertising."

The argument is not confined to the provision of legal services. Earlier this year, the Director-General of Fair Trading recommended that the ban on advertising by opticians should be lifted. "Our principal conclusion is that the advertising restrictions result in prices being significantly higher and efficiency significantly lower than they otherwise would be," states the report on Opticians and Competition.

Chartered accountants, too, are in the middle of a debate on their restrictions and the English Institute of Chartered Accountants is expected to publish a discussion document on the subject soon. Suddenly, it seems, the professions are having to reconsider their longstanding aversion to advertising.

The opposition of the professions to advertising was expressed in the Bar Council's evidence to the Monopolies Commission inquiry in 1970. "Advertising is generally regarded as inconsistent with the whole conception of a professional man as one who joins his professional colleagues in the performance of a service to the community, who is bound by strict rules of conduct in his relations with his colleagues and his clients and who recognizes a higher duty than that of a mere compliance with his client's wishes whatever they may be."

In other evidence to the Monopolies Commission, the

Effect of advertising on price variations

Prescription no	Spectacle prescriptions - not advertised		Difference
	No of quotes	Full range of prices	
1	61	37 - 85	48
2	53	42 - 68	28
3	53	50 - 90	40
4	52	31 - 85	35
5	53	38 - 70	32
6	58	44 - 103	59

Camera	Cameras - advertised		Difference
	No of quotes	Full range of prices	
Canon Snappy 20	44	48 - 65	17
Nikon EM	46	37 - 100	13

Sources: Opticians and Competition, Office of Fair Trading, December 1982

Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, among others, said: "The professions as a whole have believed that, in general, freedom to tout members of the public to give them instructions for professional work would often result in members of the public, especially the less well-informed, being prevailed upon to give their instructions to those who would serve them less well and less disinterestedly than those who are modest about their personal attainments and who do not push themselves forward to offer a service."

Advertising means lower prices and increased efficiency

The argument that advertising might lead to reduced efficiency and quality of service is rejected by those arguing for the restrictions to be relaxed, not least because of the increasing specialization within many professions.

In the case of solicitors, for example, the Royal Commission on Legal Services stated: "The increasing complexity of legislation and the law means that no solicitor can be competent in handling every kind of problem. Yet, unless a solicitor is permitted to state which kinds of problem he is competent to handle, the client has no way of knowing whether he is getting good advice or not."

Mr Philip Circus, a barrister who is legal adviser to the IPA, maintains there are many smaller firms of solicitors whose range of competence is limited. "In the IPA's submission to the president of the Law Society, he writes: 'I have seen graphic illustrations of this resulting from my experience in the world of advertising, an area touched by a number of specialized areas of law - copyright, lotteries and competitions, food labelling and consumer protection legislation, to name just a few.'"

"When advertising agencies have sought the advice of their solicitors there have been cases where the result has been advice given in ignorance of major decisions or, sometimes, on the basis of statistics that have been repeated. And another practice which appears to be not uncommon is for a solicitor to send off all the papers to counsel and tell the client that the case involves some difficult point of law."

For this reason, says Mr Circus, advertising is needed to bring an awareness to the public of the increased specialization of solicitors. It can also bring increased efficiency and lower prices, he says, citing the evidence in the OFT report on opticians which stated that increased competition brought about by the freedom to advertise could reduce the price of private spectacles by up to 28 per cent, without reducing profit levels.

"I don't see why a solicitor should not be allowed to

advertise a price," he says. "At the moment there is no incentive for a solicitor to reduce his charges because he has no way of telling people his prices are lower. But even if the price advertised did not represent a reduction, it would still be of benefit to the public, who otherwise have no way of knowing what a particular legal task may cost."

"Many people think the law is just for criminals and the very rich," says Mr Michael Waterson, research director of the Advertising Association. "This is at least partly because they

The profession is very divided on this issue

have no information to guide them."

For some other professions, such as accountancy, it is argued, the inability to advertise is actually losing accountants business, since traditional areas of work are now being handled by companies which are permitted to advertise, such as banks.

Mr Ian Percy, managing partner in the London office of Thornton Baker, one of the country's largest accountancy firms says: "The accountancy profession must have the facility to communicate with the public through newspapers and other forms of publicity. It's not so much a question of

selling one's services as telling people what is available."

Mr Norman Barton, secretary to the ethics committee of the English Institute of Chartered Accountants, maintains: "The profession is very much divided on this issue. As a direct result of pressure from the Monopolies Commission and the OFT, we introduced some minor relaxations in 1981 and this has had the inevitable effect that people are now questioning the other restrictions. Until the profession has had the chance to comment on our discussion paper, we really don't know what the outcome will be."

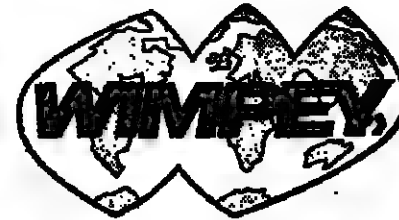
But it is advertising's effect on prices which many people regard as the central issue. The Federal Trade Commission in the United States reported that people paid 32 per cent less for spectacles in areas where optometrists were permitted to advertise, while the OFT's report on opticians shows the wide variation in the prices of spectacles, compared with the variation in the price of cameras, which may be advertised.

"The table shows a much narrower range of prices for cameras than in the case of spectacles, supporting the contention that in a market where advertising is allowed, the better information available to consumers will increase the effectiveness of competition and bring about a greater similarity of prices," claims the report.

Underlying these arguments is a fresh view of the role of advertising, in which the business that was once widely seen as wasteful and expensive is now hailed as the consumer's friend. "There has been a radical change in opinion in the last few years, as new information has come out about how advertising works, particularly with regard to its effect in reducing prices," declares Mr Waterson.

"As yet there are regrettably few studies of this kind, but their findings are all consistent with the view that advertising is an important means of competition. When advertising is allowed, consumers are better able to search for lower prices, while producers have a greater incentive to reduce costs. The studies show that the effect of imposing price restrictions is to raise prices and that the effect of relaxing them is to reduce prices."

Where public policy is concerned, these are absolutely crucial findings and lead, in my view, to the conclusion that advertising restrictions in the professions are an indefensible restrictive practice, that costs UK consumers many millions of pounds each year."



Interim Statement

for the half year ended 30th June, 1983

	6 months to 30.6.83 £m	6 months to 30.6.82 £m
Turnover — Work carried out by the Group including attributable Share of Associates	616.0	517.0
Operating Profit including Share of Associates	16.1	13.4
Interest Payable less Receivable	7.9	7.2
Profit Before Taxation	8.2	6.2
Taxation	2.0	1.2
Profit After Taxation Attributable to Shareholders	6.2	5.0

The directors have decided to declare an interim dividend of 0.85p per share (0.85p*) totalling £2,393,600 (£2,176,000*) which will be paid on 5th January, 1984 to ordinary shareholders on the register at 2nd December, 1983. (*1982 interim dividend).

The Chairman, Sir Reginald Smith, comments:

For the six months ended 30th June 1983, unaudited profits before tax were £8.2 million compared with £6.2 million in the six months to the end of June 1982. The directors have declared an interim dividend of 0.85p per share which in effect is an increase of 10% compared to the previous interim dividend because of the increase in the issued share capital.

In the United Kingdom good progress has been made by Wimpey Homes with the legal completion of the sale of 4,200 houses achieved in the six months to the end of June compared to 3,600 in the same

period in 1982. Progress has also been made in construction, waste management and building materials.

In North America investments in housing and land in the USA are making a worthwhile contribution and firm action is being taken in Canada to mitigate the difficult market conditions. Elsewhere important contracts have been won and the Group's order book is higher than at this time last year.

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RACING: 50-1 MIDDLE PARK STAKES WINNER LEAVES LEAF FAN FAVOURITE FOR 2,000 GUINEAS

Cauthen rides by the copybook on Creag-An-Sgor

By Michael Seely

Leaf Fan is clear favourite for next season's 2,000 Guineas at 6-1 after Vacamere's unexpected defeat by the 50-1 outsider Creag-An-Sgor in the William Hill Middle Park Stakes at Newmarket yesterday. The merit of the victory by Guy Harwood's two-year-old in the Champagne Stakes was further underlined by the fact that the hero of yesterday's race finished nearly twice as long in arrears at Doncaster.

However, nothing can be allowed to detract from the merit of Creag-An-Sgor's victory. Steve Cauthen rode a copybook race on Charlie Nelson's Captain James Colt. After making the early running the American jockey stepped up the gallop passing the Bushes. Joe Mercer went in pursuit on Vacamere but it was soon clear that odds-on favourite was going to find no more pace.

Staying on resolutely, Creag-An-Sgor increased his advantage to win by one and a half lengths. Superlative, previously the winner of the July Flying Childers Stakes, finished one and a half lengths away in third place, followed by Executive Man, Novello and Hegemony.

The only possible explanation for this result is that Creag-An-Sgor ran by far and away his best race of the season and that some of the others are temporarily departed from Vacamere's belly. Both Henry Cecil and Daniel Widenstein took their defeat philosophically. Mr Widenstein's somewhat reflective comment was: "I don't think Lester Piggott would have won on Vacamere. But as far as next season's riding arrangements are concerned, we'll just have to wait and see."

"I don't know what to make of it," Cecil said. "Maybe we'll give Vacamere another race over seven furlongs, possibly in the Dewhurst or maybe he's not as good as we thought he was." Surely next season is the time to test Vacamere's merit. It is late in the year and some horses have had enough racing. Without in any way denigrating yesterday's winner, Vacamere was a better horse in mid-summer, particularly when he

sprinted past Creag-An-Sgor at Goodwood.

Nelson is inclined to blame himself for Creag-An-Sgor's poor display at Doncaster. "He was jured up after the Richmond Stakes. With hindsight I probably crammed too much work into the colt too quickly as he certainly didn't give his running at Doncaster," Nelson has no reason to reproach himself as his 46 horse-power team at Upper Lambourne now includes three live hopes for next season's classics in Creag-An-Sgor, Mahogany and Double Schwartz.

Mahogany is the filly who made that remarkable debut at Newbury when beating Seattle Siren in the Stud, Stable and Farm Stakes. "Creag-An-Sgor will be retired for the season," the trainer said. "Double Schwartz runs in the Prix Eclipse in France on Tuesday and I'll be bringing Mahogany to the next meeting here at the Houghton or Rockliffe Stakes."

The trainer owns both Mahogany and Creag-An-Sgor in partnership with Bill Tulloch, his cousin. The sporting Tullocks are better known for their association with Pollardstown, that gallant veteran gelding who finished runner-up to Sea Pigeon in the 1981 Champion Hurdle. They treated their victory with the same happy equanimity as they have done Pollardstown's defeat at Cheltenham. "Pollardstown will be back jumping fences this season," his proud owner said. "That really will be something exciting."

Results such as those of yesterday's race are a somewhat ironic reflection on the millions of pounds being lavished at the world's leading yearling sales. Nelson bought Creag-An-Sgor and Mahogany for 20,000 Irish pounds each at Kill. Colonel Robin Hastings, of the British Bloodstock Agency, acquired Desirable for a mere 7,600 pounds at the same sale.

STATE OF GOODNESS: Newmarket good to firm. Haydock Park good. Sandown good to firm. Southwell good to firm. Thirsk good to firm. Wetherby good to firm. York good to firm. Doncaster good to firm. Chester good to firm. Lincoln good to firm. Leicester good to firm. Nottingham good to firm. Peterborough good to firm. Salisbury good to firm. Swindon good to firm. Weymouth good to firm. Exeter good to firm. Gloucester good to firm. Hereford good to firm. Worcester good to firm. Oxford good to firm. Reading good to firm. Southampton good to firm. Brighton good to firm. Hove good to firm. Brighton good to firm. Hove good to firm. Brighton good to firm. Hove good to firm.



Broadwater Music (left) striking a winning note at Newmarket yesterday

Trainers in bullet-proof vests

By John Karter

Things may be going dreadfully wrong for Henry Cecil, but as he hopes around Newmarket looking about as happy as a chicken with an invitation to a Colonel Sanders barbecue, he might do well to consider what racehorse trainers have to contend with outside this green and pleasant land.

In France, they must be as thick-skinned as rhinoceroses to shrug off the jeering and jeering when their horses fail to fulfil punters' expectations. In Singapore, however, it seems a thick-skinned as rhinoceroses to shrug off the jeering and jeering when their horses fail to fulfil punters' expectations.

Mr. Allan, who had two other good horses, Capricorn Line and the Cambridge City winner, Century City, with Luca Cuman, Capricorn Line's trainer, is himself the leading trainer in Singapore. Four months ago, he was named down as he walked out of his front door, and left for dead. Four bullets were taken from his body, and recently a fifth was removed. There was no apparent motive for the attack. Mr. Allan has no interests or political affiliations outside racing — so one can only assume that they take the sport very seriously indeed in Singapore.

Happily, Mr. Allan is now on the way to recovery and yesterday's impressive victory by Capricorn Line in the Alington Maiden Stakes, may have been ultimate tonic.

Considering this was her first run, this strapping daughter of Nonchalant did extremely well to dominate her 28 rivals from start to finish.

Perhaps bookmakers were in a bit of a quandary as to what to do with the new season, when the New Guinea Stakes will be her first objective on the way to a possible tilt at the 2,000 Guineas.

If Cecil is a worried man, then his jockey, Lester Piggott, is looking as jittery as he has not a care in the world, despite the much-chronicled Widenstein affair. Losing the ride on Mr Widenstein's best horse, Vacamere, looked anything but a big deal after that horse's failure in the Middle Park Stakes, and half an hour later, the face that has been described as resembling a well kept grave, was wreathed in smiles as Piggott dismantled from Jupiter Island, the easy winner of the Southfield Handicap, under the crackling burden of 12 st.

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to start at 15-8. Despite the big weight, Clive Brittain's four-year-old had looked in a different class to his rivals beforehand, and so it proved in the race.

Fully half a mile from home it would be seen that Jupiter Island had his rivals cold, and when Piggott made his move two furlongs on the others were made to look like feeble donkeys.

After being buffeted about like a dog on a rope in the Beesborough Stakes at Royal Ascot in June, Jupiter Island apparently went to London, calmly, Brittain and Piggott have re-established his confidence to such an extent that yesterday's was his fourth success in five races.

Britain believes that the horse is now ready for bigger things, and if Piggott agrees when he looks at the opposition, Jupiter Island could next in the valuable Canadian International Championship, at Woodbine, later in the year.

Trainers looked another who is ready to scale greater heights when Capricorn Line's victory was announced. Dick Hern will keep the Retkins colt in training next year, when a group certainly will be at his impressive powers of acceleration.

From Desmond Stoneham, French Racing Correspondent, Paris

There now looks like being 25 runners in Sunday's Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp. Brilliant sunshine throughout the week has almost ensured that the track will ride good to firm and the long range forecast predicts little rain before the race. The clerk of the course might water a little in the meantime but on to remove any sting in the ground.

My own opinion is that filly will dominate this year and that no French horse will finish in the first three places. The winner could well be the English Time Charter followed by Stanzas of Ireland, Diamond Shoal of England and the French Sharaya. In what is certainly an open race, it is also possible that Awaasif and All Along could be involved in the finish while my preferred outsiders are Sagace and Lancastrian.

For the past four years, filly have had their male counterparts cold, with the victories of Three Troikas, Detroit, Gold River and Awaasif. The Aga Khan was the owner of Awaasif, who defeated Awaasif and Awaasif in the hands of the 14-times French champion jockey, Yves Saint-Martin.

The same team are this year's favourites, Sharaya, who has definite claims to France's most famous race. The daughter of Youth has shown excellent recent form. She won at Pau from Posing Storm on 15 de la Noemie and most recently in the group one Prix Vermeille, which was run over the full Arc course.

Although Sharaya took the Vermeille with great ease, it should not be forgotten that the second broke down and the rest were not exactly out of the top drawer.

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SPORT 27

RUGBY LEAGUE

Overseas transfer ban is lifted

By Keith Macklin

The ban on international transfers, imposed in 1977, was lifted at the International Board meeting in New Zealand. David Lowrie, the public relations officer, said short term transfers between Australia and Britain would carry no fees, but the receiving clubs would have to put up £30,000 in insurance cover. Long term transfers will involve fees.

The seriousness with which the League views foul play was brutally underlined at yesterday's disciplinary committee meeting in Leeds. Twenty-five players received a total of 100 matches in suspensions, three were suspended for eight matches, and five for six matches. The eight match suspensions were imposed on Andy Goodway (Oldham), Peter Stoddart (Whitehaven) and Ian Madley (Hull) and the five match suspensions were imposed on Tony Rose (Huddersfield), Mark Forster (Warrington), Roy Haggerty (St Helens), Steve Denison (Hull) and Paul Proctor (Hull Kingston Rovers). After the meeting the chairman Jack Grindrod said: "The suspensions imposed are to be typical of the committee's new hard line. The problem is that many of these offences are committed on crowd pleasing players. This will not be a short term policy, but the yardstick for the future."

The management committee, meeting in Leeds on Wednesday, suspended the registration with Fulham of Alan Dearden, the former Widnes second row forward. Dearden came out of a retirement caused by injury to play two games for Fulham, but complications have been found in his insurance cover and these are to be investigated by Fulham.

Peter Fox, the Bradford northern coach, has once again discovered the drawbacks in having an abrasively outspoken tongue. Fox was loudly abusive from the dugout in last Sunday's league game at Leigh, the referee Fred Lindop took exception to the remarks, and Fox was ordered from the touchline and on into the grandstand. He has been ordered to appear to answer the referee's allegations at the next meeting of the league management committee on October 12.

Durs have now been confirmed as the three matches to be played by Queensland next month. On October 16 the Australian state champions play Hull Kingston Rovers, on 23rd they travel to Wigan, and on 30th their final game is at Leeds.

Club tournaments will be played in several parts of the country this weekend. The Radcliff Club ground in Weymouth, the first and second XI teams from all the Dorset clubs meet on Saturday. The first match starts at 11.30 and they hope to finish by dusk.

Playing in three sections, matches can only be 10 minutes each. The top six teams meet again in the Top Six tournament. The tournament to decide two teams to represent Dorset at the West clubs tournament.

Wimborne won last year but several players, including their captain, Mick Chadwick, are not available to the new captain, Anita Davey, leads the team.

In Leicestershire, first eleven with four or four second eleven with three. The bigger clubs play at Derby Road playing fields, Loughborough, on Saturday starting at 12.0 noon.

This tournament is run by a different club each year. It is one of the smallest in the county, are the organizers this time. They have arranged it with special emphasis on umpiring. Each team must bring an umpire or play with a player as umpire. Only in the semi-finals and finals will umpires be neutral.

During the first game Eton (Matthew Small and Peter Bailey) exercised complete control through service. Bailey having served 11-0, and won 15-10. In the second game Harrow were 7-10 down, but won 15-10, and then took the next 23 points. Eton succumbed to unforced errors and experienced difficulty in returning serves.

Eton's unbeaten run ended. Eton's first Pair suffered their first defeat for 22 matches at the hands of a new Harrow pair David Dick and Stephen Segrave. William Stephens writes: "The result will hasten Eton's plans to rebuild their team, particularly as Alan Giddins is in his last half."

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Haydock Park

Draw advantage: low numbers best

Tote: Double 3.15, 4.15. Treble 2.45, 3.45, 4.45

2.15 KNUITSFORD STAKES (3-y-o fillies: £2,105; 1m 2f 131yd) (16 runners)

1. 00-001 LILLIE (P. O'Connell) W. W. 8-11 M. 11th

2. 00-002 LILLIE (P. O'Connell) W. W. 8-11 M. 11th

3. 00-003 LILLIE (P. O'Connell) W. W. 8-11 M. 11th

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5. 00-005 LILLIE (P. O'Connell) W. W. 8-11 M. 11th

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60. 00-060 LILLIE (P. O'Connell) W. W. 8-11 M. 11th

Haydock selections

By Michael Seely

2.15 Taga. 2.45 Tropical Storm. 3.15 True Heritage. 3.45 Chantry. 4.15 You Love Me. 4.45 Swinging Cowboy. 5.15 Tanned Man. 5.45 Garden Mol.

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TENNIS

McEnroe seeks two US records

Wimbledon. Jarrett and Lloyd and Acuna and Belus Prajoux have provisionally been chosen for tomorrow's doubles at one o'clock, though the pairings can be changed. At eleven o'clock on Sunday Lloyd plays Acuna and Mottram and Fillo will then tie up any loose ends. Play must finish at six o'clock every day unless the captains agree otherwise.

The Eastbourne tie introduced a crowded fixture list of British indoor events: the Refugee Assurance National Championships at Telford next week, the Women's Under 22 match between Britain and the USA (Cambridge, October 12-14), the Daihatsu Women's tournament (Brighton, October 17-23), the Benson & Hedges men's tournament (Wembley November 8-13) and a series of women's tournaments at Ipswich, Bramhall, Coventry and Telford (November 7, December 3).

Mottram: at his best in the Davis Cup

Injury toll weakens Gala and Hawick

That nothing is right ultimately come of professional rugby this year should be small comfort to the ruling authorities. David Lord's bungling is making the game look stupid and with little information forthcoming it is felt in Wales, particularly after Lord's television appearance last week, that the time has come for a change. It can only be at best a fringe activity.


It will not be this year's Twickenham match from being the main attraction. Standard Bridge does not quite have the same ring about it.

There are quite a few flaws in the game as it is played. It is not to be complacent, however. That over 200 players from the top level clubs are involved in the business of Lord's enterprise and apparently signed documents to that effect indicates a growing disaffection with the way the game is being managed.

The disaffection is not entirely with the unreasonableness of the laws governing the amateur status of players. Many administrators, club officials and supporters believe that the game is being ruined by these laws are out of joint with the times. It is not surprising that players should be lured by the gaudy

Last week at Hawick, however, the Borderers finished the match with only 12 men and one of those wobbling as they went down. Unsurprisingly, to the Borderers. It was not a result which gave confidence to the city side, especially as Andy Irvine was the first casualty.

The injury may not be quite so



Feeney on right road

The leg-spinner Wasim Raja, who scored a hundred in Pakistan's first innings, also finished with his side's best bowling figures to earn the man-of-the-match award. His four for 50 in 28 overs included the wicket of Cackwack, who was caught and bowled off a delivery that Raja held back.

India resumed at 201 for four with Gawkwad on 121 and they struggled for runs all day. Gawkwad's innings, during which he faced 436 balls and hit 17 fours, came to an end almost immediately after tea. The previous highest score by an Indian against Pakistan was 177 by Chandu Borde, now a selector, in Madras 22 years ago.

Since winning the British title over Roy Cattouse, in a memorable last October, Feeney has flown the Continent where he lost to both Ray Mancini, the World Boxing Association champion, and Howard Davis, the World Boxing Council No.2 contender.

Markoule returns to better having been put on the canvas in his 170 amateur and 12 professional bouts. Willis boasts that he had an easy passage since his first pulled on boxing gloves and has not suffered any customary trademarks of cuts or bruised face. Next month he will expect his fair share of punishment from the champion at the Aston Villa Leisure Centre.

BOXING

Cummings boxed Joe Frazier in the former world champion's comeback fight in Chicago and nearly had Frazier down. Cummings has had a hard grounding in fighting, having learnt his trade in Stateville Prison, Illinois.

Bruce need have no fear of Cummings on October 11, the

Bugner's manager and he has been a party to any arrangements. Barrett however does not see any reason as posing any problems, because has dismissed Warren," Barrett said. He read out the relevant parts of Bugner's dismissal letter, which though not exactly in the spirit of the Cover argument, made quite plain that Bugner had been fired.

the waiter. "I'm going to come fighting as he has always wanted stage that contest. There is bound to be a legal battle before the two big can face each other."

Lawrence looks like a step up in the ring for Bruno. Though at 32 he does not appear to be sliding downhill as fast as some of Bruno's cronies. Cummings's last bought,

Lawless remained cautious about the Bugner contest. "Mike Barrett is talking like a promoter. Much depends on how Bruno fares. If he does well it might be a better step to meet a top American, who would be more saleable in the States."

Harrow have a field day

A lively midweek schools meeting between Harrow, coached by the former England and British Lion forward Roger Utley, and Bedford, led by the coach of Pat Kings as they just finished successfully as England's Under-23 coach, ended in victory for Harrow by two tries and a dropped goal to nil (Michael Stevenson writes).

Laudale and Head scored. Harrow's tries, and Robinson dropped a goal, all in the first half. After the interval Harrow changed. Their pressure tactics to a more ambitious approach, but it did not bring success.

Their key player, is Balcombe at scrum half. Two fine locks, O'Connor and Bunn, are at the

In the north east Durham School have got off to an impressive start, beating their old boys, 72-24 and the normally powerful Whitehaven GS, 70-8. Sedbergh, who produced an outstanding team last year, have also been in irresistible early form, defeating St Bees 51-3, and the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle, 45-3.

Irvine: recovering

and as it seemed but without Irvine's efforts are vulnerable and while doubtless they will start the campaign with a win against **Silmarock in Edinburgh tomorrow** a defeat looks the following week when they face the champions, **Gala**, on foreign soil.

The week after Gala, who bitterly regretted losing the Border League title to Hawick last season despite having grasped the national one, will face the Greens at home, in what is likely to be a fierce encounter. Hawick have won the last 18 times and Gala four.

By next April the score will probably have risen to 19-4, and with it a Border League count of 40 runs to Hawick.

Tomorrow Gala should win against Ayr side, playing in division one for the first time, and Hawick need not fear too much their visit to Airdrie, also just promoted.

Perhaps the most interesting game will be in Jedburgh, where the oldest Border-Edinburgh rivalry will be resumed in the game between Jed-Forest and Stewart's-Melville F.C. with the current British Lion Laidlaw and the old one Douglas Morgan in direct opposition at scrum half.

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Car Buyer's Guide

Motoring by Clifford Webb

Renault rub salt in Rover's wound

The problems Austin Rover faces with its shortage of new designed cars—the drawing-board engines as opposed to old, updated designs have just been underlined by Renault, itself state-controlled motor group.

Today the French company released details of two high-performance versions of the recently launched Renault 11—the hatchback variant of the older Renault 9 saloon—powered by a new 1,731 cc engine. The five speed, five door GTX costs £5,300 and the five speed, three door TXE, with a higher level of equipment, costs £5,900.

Renault already had five petrol engine families, starting with the "Billmeyer" 782 cc and ending with the Type 2 all alloy V-6 2,664 cc. In addition it had two diesel engines of 2,068 cc and two of 2,445 cc. But there was a noticeable gap between 1,600 cc and two litres for petrol, and below two litres for diesel.

Last December, a new 1,595 cc diesel made its debut in the Renault 9 and, in contrast to the normal development cycle, the new high performance petrol engine is derived from that diesel unit.

But finding the £120m to design and develop a new engine family is only half the task facing Austin-Rover. Renault has also invested nearly £140m to build a new 700,000 sq ft factory at Clichy, near Rouen, to produce the new engines.

When it is in full production a workforce of 900 will churn out 2,000 engines a day. And therein lies another of Austin-Rover's weaknesses.

With annual output of only 450,000 cars a year compared with Renault's near two million, it does not have the volume to justify several engine families, which explains the deal with Renault to assemble the Renault/Austin and the still-to-be-finalized Project XC for a new Honda/Rover executive car in two years time.

Relations at all levels between Austin-Rover and Honda are reported to be so good that there is growing expectation in the industry that further joint deals are already in the pipeline, with priority being given to a new family of light-weight engines in the 1,000 cc to 1,300 cc bracket now filed by the Austin but still basically 70-year-old A-Plus Longbridge engine, which powers the Metro and bottom-range Maestro models.

Train Robbery

I cannot understand why anyone would want to own vehicles and equipment used in the 1963 Great Train Robbery. But clearly Midland auctioneers Walton and Hipkins do not take that view. Items from the robbery are being given pride of place in an auction of veteran and vintage cars, which opens at Viscount Colham's family home, Hagley Hall, near Stourbridge, in the West Midlands, tomorrow.

The Great Train Robbery memorabilia has only been on display once in the past 15 years, so I suppose the Austin Rover, which with its false floor was used to carry the gang's loot to its Leatherdale Farm hideout, will attract some interest, as will a Land-Rover used as another getaway vehicle, radio equipment, cooking pots and Scotland Yard photographs.

I am much more interested in a rare 1914 American Maxwell Tourer which spent 50 years of its life in places because its original owner's erratic behaviour behind the wheel so worried his relatives that they had it dismantled "for his own safety and the safety of others". It was put back together in 1968.

Backache Savers

Estate cars are intended to carry heavy, bulky objects that will not fit into the boot of a standard saloon. Manhandling something like a refrigerator on to the edge of the estate's floor is difficult enough, but

twiggling it inside so that you can close the rear door is not to be attempted by anyone with a short fuse.

So all praise to Ford, who have just come up with the answer in the shape of a retractable loading platform. A heavy duty wooden platform slides on steel rails fixed to the floor. When required for loading it is simply pulled out over the rear bumper, where it will hold up to 200 kilograms. It locks automatically into position when slid back.

At £134, excluding value added tax (VAT) for Sierra and Granada estates and £195 excluding VAT for heavier duty Escort vans, it is not likely to sell to Mr Average Motorist. But as a large percentage of estates double as tradesmen's transports, it will certainly be popular with them.

"Quattrovalvole"

In that almost mystical way which dominates the thinking of performance car buffs, the Ferrari Mondial has tended to be looked down upon as a two-plus-two compromise on the traditional two-seater supercar theme. All that changed last year, however, when the Mondial's V8 engine acquired four valves a cylinder, an extra 26 bhp, and the title of Quattrovalvole.

Welcome as the extra power undoubtedly was to the supporters of the prancing horse stable, you only have to listen to them rolling the word "Quattrovalvole" around their tongues with obvious relish to realise that by adding it to the Mondial's tail was a stroke of marketing genius.

The heart of any Ferrari is the superb engine, and the scream of the Mondial's three-litre is guaranteed to start the adrenaline flowing even in a citizen like myself. In spite of the fact that the Mondial is a big, heavy car—over one cwt more than most family saloons its breathing acceleration sees you past 60 mph in a little over six seconds and third gear.

That brings me to the gear mechanism, and my first clash with those Ferrari owners who regard its

outraged gate change layout as another means of sorting the men from the boys. I refuse to believe that in 1983 it is necessary for any car maker, let alone one with the brilliant engineering record of Ferrari, to bolt a steel gate to the floor of the car to "guide" the gear lever. The metallic clunk it produces when the lever strikes the plate—and it is every time you change gear—is much too intrusive. If a gate is indeed necessary, why not use one of the occasionally strong plastic composites? At least that would remove the metal-on-metal sound.

The Mondial is easy to drive in town traffic, thanks to the well positioned windows containing more glass than is normally possible in a mid-engined car. It is not so easy to park, however, because of its severely restricted turning circle and heavy steering, made worse by the fat Michelin TRX tyres.

The cockpit is well laid out with one exception. The thick, leather-covered steering wheel obscures the top half of both the rev counter and the speedometer, and those sectors cover the most frequently used mid-range speeds.

Two small nigglings which Maresello Concessionaires, the importers, insist are exceptional occurrences: one headlamp refused to pop up and had to be raised manually with the emergency gear, and the red oil pressure warning light flashed intermittently until I discovered a poor electrical connection.

Model: Ferrari Mondial Quattrovalvole. Price: £29,732. Engine: V-8 2,927cc all-alloy. Performance: maximum speed 146 mph, 0-60 mph, 6.4 sec. Official consumption: Urban, 13 mpg, 56 mpg, 28 mpg, and 75 mpg, 25.3 mpg. Length: 15ft. Insurance: Group 9.

Vital Statistics

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1	TV-am	ITV/LONDON	BBC 2	CHANNEL 4	Radio 4	Radio 3	Radio 2
<p>6.00 Cee-fax AM: News and useful information of all kinds, available on all sets, teletext or otherwise.</p> <p>8.30 Breakfast Time: With Selina Scott and Mike Smith. Today's special features include pop news (between 7.45 and 8.00) and Audrey Eytan's Slim and shine phone-in (between 8.30 and 9.00). Regular items include news bulletins at 8.30 and half-hourly until 8.50; regional news at 8.45 and half-hourly until 8.55; Sport at 8.45, 7.18 and 8.18. Closedown at 9.00.</p>	<p>6.25 Good Morning Britain: With Nick Owen and Anne Diamond. Includes news at 6.30, then half-hourly until 8.00, then at 8.25; sport at 8.35, 7.40 and 8.35; Today's papers at 8.25; Consumer advice at 8.50; Popeye at 7.22; Elaine Paige at 7.33; Viewers reply to Monday Noon at 7.50; Fantasy Team, with Peter Purves, at 8.05; TV Review at 8.35; and Progress of Diane Dors Diet Dozen, at 8.42.</p>	<p>9.25 Thames news headlines. What's on in the area; 9.30 For Schools: Photo-synthesis; 9.40 How We Used to Live; 10.00 Good Health; 10.55 Grat, Design, and Technology; 10.43 A girl in a traditionally male job; 11.05 Peter and the Wolf; 11.30 The Lark.</p> <p>12.00 The Woolies: The story of the surprise breakfast by Virginia Bell, told by Michael Parkinson (12.10); 12.30 Rainbow (repeated at 4.00pm); 12.30 Home Sweet Home: The story of the immigrants in Australia.</p>	<p>6.05 Open University (until 8.10) Conformation in Proteins; 6.30 Conformation in Proteins; 6.55 Lift Design in Coal Mines; 7.20 Atoms and Molecules; 7.45 Evolution: Man.</p> <p>9.08 Daytime on Two: Darwin and Evolution; 9.35 Tout (comprised of 9.35 Dark Towers episode 2; 10.15 Mashore; 11.00 Church and village in the 17th century; 11.22 Read out; 11.44 Engineering World; 12.05 Computer Programme: What is a computer? 12.30 Dedicated marketing; 12.55 Speak for Yourself.</p>	<p>4.45 The Tudor Faces: Third, and final, film in this mini-series devoted to three of the finest painters of miniatures at the Tudor court. Tonight: Isaac Oliver, the son of a Huguenot refugee from Rouen. Several of his works are in the royal collection, and others are to be seen in the V and A.</p> <p>5.00 In Search of Paradise: Last film in this series about gardeners great and small. Tonight: a peep into the future of the garden. The narrator is the narrator.</p>	<p>6.00 News Briefing. 6.10 Shipping Today. 6.20 Today, including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 News Summary. 7.45 Today's News. 7.55 The Goodbye by T. H. White (S). Read by Norman Rodway. 8.57 Weather. 9.00 News. 9.05 Desert Island Discs. Ian Richardson, actor. 10.00 News: International Assignment. What chance of a war in space? With the BBC defence correspondent Christopher Lee. 10.30 Morning Story: "The Convent" by Guy de Maupassant. Read by David Marsh. 10.45 News. 10.55 Travel: Krievan, Alison. 11.00 McLary's celebration of the Great Edwardian Sporting Weekend. 11.48 Natural Selection (Man and the pig). 12.00 News. 12.05 Consumer Affairs. 12.27 The Form. Bodmin School v High School, 12.30. 12.55 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping. 2.00 News. 2.05 Woman's Hour. 2.15 Merian. 2.30 News. 2.35 Woman's Hour. 2.45 Merian. 2.55 News. 3.00 Woman's Hour. 3.15 Merian. 3.25 News. 3.30 Woman's Hour. 3.45 Merian. 3.55 News. 4.00 Woman's Hour. 4.15 Merian. 4.25 News. 4.30 Woman's Hour. 4.45 Merian. 4.55 News. 5.00 Woman's Hour. 5.15 Merian. 5.25 News. 5.30 Woman's Hour. 5.45 Merian. 5.55 News. 6.00 Woman's Hour. 6.15 Merian. 6.25 News. 6.30 Woman's Hour. 6.45 Merian. 6.55 News. 7.00 Woman's Hour. 7.15 Merian. 7.25 News. 7.30 Woman's Hour. 7.45 Merian. 7.55 News. 8.00 Woman's Hour. 8.15 Merian. 8.25 News. 8.30 Woman's Hour. 8.45 Merian. 8.55 News. 9.00 Woman's Hour. 9.15 Merian. 9.25 News. 9.30 Woman's Hour. 9.45 Merian. 9.55 News. 10.00 Woman's Hour. 10.15 Merian. 10.25 News. 10.30 Woman's Hour. 10.45 Merian. 10.55 News. 11.00 Woman's Hour. 11.15 Merian. 11.25 News. 11.30 Woman's Hour. 11.45 Merian. 11.55 News. 12.00 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